

## **Plenary Session and follow-up workshops within Thematic Group 7: Solidarity-based Economy – a worldwide movement: International Experiences and Co-operation**

Outside of Germany, the Solidarity-based Economy – which is also referred to as Social Economy, Community Economy and/or People's Economy – is a much more lively and developed movement and the theoretical debate is much more advanced as well. Aim of the session is therefore to bring the international debate as well as the practical experiences to a German audience, to explore the differences and communalities as well as perspectives and strategies of international co-operation. Representatives of the various regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Latin and North America, Eastern and Western Europe) will share their experiences in an open plenary session and join the discussion in the follow-up workshops.

### **Plenary Session: Think globally – Act locally! The Solidarity-based Economy within a global context** (Podium no. 3 within the overall programme)

- Time:** Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 2006, 09:00-10:30 h (probably 11:00 h)
- Location:** Technical University of Berlin, Main Building,  
Straße des 17. Juni 135
- Moderation:** Karl Birkhölzer, Interdisciplinary Research Group Local  
Economy, European Network for Economic Self Help and Local  
Development, Berlin
- Participants:** Sam Chelladurai, Anekal Rehabilitation Education and Development  
(READ) Centre, Bangalore, India  
Norman Chipakupaku, Trade Africa 2000 Plus, Zambia und Hawick,  
Scotland  
Giovanni Acquati, International Association of Investors in the Social  
Economy / INAISE, Milan and:  
Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l'Economie Sociale Solidaire  
/ RIPESS, Brussels, Belgium  
Mike Lewis, Canadian Community Economic Development Network /  
CCEDNet, Centre for Community Enterprise, Vancouver, Canada  
Ewa Les, Institute for Social Policy, University of Warsaw, Poland  
Paul Singer, Secretary of State for the Social Economy, Sao Paulo,  
Brazil

Challenged by a neoliberal economic system which claims to be of worldwide significance it is obvious that the search for alternatives, responses and/or solutions has to have a global dimension as well. The impact and consequences of this dominance nowadays affect nearly all parts the world. On the other hand the counteracting movements have developed almost similar or at least comparable strategies. Therefore – in the different regions and more or less independent from each other – a variety of strategies for economic self help and/or resistance on the basis of solidarity have emerged. If we introduce for all these phenomena the (preliminary) working definition of a “Solidarity-based Economy” it has to be pointed out that this should by no means be understood as a self-contained or finally delimited concept nor as

a theoretical or ideological construct, but (at least for the time being) as not more than a collective term for all the practical outcomes and experiences of a variety of socioeconomic movements.

Therefore, we will open the debate with the presentation of practical experiences and ask the speakers – within statements of about 15 minutes – to respond to the following questions:

- Which are – in your country resp. continent – the most relevant movements of economic self help and/or resistance on the basis of solidarity?
- Why did they emerge, and what are their main objectives and/or target groups, their successes and failures?
- What is – in your country resp. continent – understood by the term “Solidarity-based Economy” and/or what (other) terms, concepts, traditions are at the forefront?
- What do you think about the future perspectives of the “Solidarity-based Economy” in your country resp. continent?

Obviously these subjects cannot be tackled sufficiently in fifteen minutes. Therefore, there will be no discussion after the statements within the plenary session, but enough room for questions, comments and debate in the following workshops. To give this debate a more effective structure each workshop will focus on different aspects or guidelines. Finally we will take the opportunity of having a high-profile international panel to come up with some practical as well as theoretical results for further development and co-operation within the Solidarity-based Economy (at least in kind of a documentation or publication). To achieve this we do hope that presenters will (at least partly) be available in the workshops for further input and debate, completed by participants from other socioeconomic movements with national and international background, f.i.

Maria Anastasiadis, University of Graz / Austria;

Renate Goergen, Cooperativa Mina Vagante, Rome / Italy;

Eric Lavillunière, Institut Européen d’Economie Solidaire / INEES, Luxembourg;

Skevos Papaioannou, University of Crete, Rethymnon / Greece;

Bill Pardy, Community Economic Development Project, Uzhgorod / Ukraine;

John Pearce, Community Business Scotland Network, West Calder / UK;

Martine Theveniaut-Muller, Praticiens de l’Action et de la Réflexion pour l’Insertion / PARI, Alet-les-Bains / France

## **Forum I**

### **International Exchange of Experience: What do we mean by the term Solidarity-based Economy?**

(Forum no. 2 within the overall programme)

Time: Saturday, 25th of Nov. 2006, 11:00 (probably 11:30 h) – 13:00 h

Location: Technical University of Berlin, Main Building,  
Straße des 17.Juni 135

Thematic Focus / Questions:

- What do we understand by the terms “Social” and/or “Solidarity-based Economy”?
- Which are the underlying concepts and/or traditions?

- Which are the theoretical and/or strategic justifications or rationalities?
- Are there other and/or probably conflicting terms, definitions, concepts?

## **Forum II**

### **International Exchange of Experience: The Solidarity-based Economy – complementary or alternative strategies**

(forum no. 7 within the overall programme)

Time: Saturday, 25th of Nov. 2006, 15:00 – 16:30 h  
 Location: Technical University of Berlin, Main Building,  
 Straße des 17.Juni 135

Thematic Focus / Questions:

- Which are the views of the actors and their movements about the role of the „Solidarity-based Economy” within a globalised neoliberal system: additional, alternative, complementary, contradictory or what else?
- Which are their essential practical and strategic guidelines?
- What are the main differences between enterprises of the “Solidarity-based Economy” and others?
- What are their main types of activities, organisational forms, alliances and/or partnerships?

## **Forum III**

### **International Exchange of Experience: Cooperation and networking on international level**

(forum no. 14 within the overall programme)

Time: Saturday, 25th of Nov. 2006, 19:00 – 21:30 h  
 Location: Technical University of Berlin, Main Building,  
 Straße des 17.Juni 135

Thematic Focus / Questions:

- What is the relevance of international cooperation within the development the “Solidarity-based Economy”?
- What kind of international networking and/or political representation of the “Solidarity-based Economy” do we need?
- What is the future role of the already existing networks in this context like:  
 COMMACT (The Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development) ,  
 RIPESS (Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l’Economie Sociale Solidaire),  
 EuroNet (European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development),  
 CECOP/ICA (Confédération Européenne des Coopératives de Production et de Travail Associé, Coopératives Sociales et des Entreprises Participatives / International Cooperative Alliance) a.o.?

Languages: German, English, French