



To all members

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23/06/2003

Report from the Chair and Executive Committee

Fifth Annual General Meeting of the European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development in Waltham Forest, London 17.05.03

1. From Edinburgh 2000 to London 2003

As some of you will certainly remember, the foundation of the European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development was an outcome of the European Congress "Learning from European Experiences" at the end of 1992 in Berlin. In the following decade the members of EURONET – this abbreviation has been introduced and is now more or less used by our friends and partners – have met in European Congresses at Dessau 1994, Liverpool 1996, Leipzig 1998 and finally in Edinburgh in 2000.

Congratulations to our Scottish members and especially the people from Craigmillar for their initiative and commitment to organise a very successful and enlightening European Congress on "Local regeneration and social capital. Building capacity – taking action". Unfortunately, this was the last European Congress in the traditional form as a "festival of learning" with numerous working groups where initiatives from all over Europe presented their work, exchanged experiences and tried to learn from each other. The documentation of the Dessau Congress ("People's Economy", 1996) which served as a model is still worth reading.

As you know, the next European Congress was planned for 2002 in Carcassonne, in the south of France. Although it seemed to be an innovative and brilliant idea to have a decentralised event at five different locations, the organisational and logistic problems appeared to be too difficult to be carried out by a small local organisation. Nevertheless we are grateful to Martine Théveniaut-Muller and her group for the efforts they have made to make it happen. The concept of the planned congress should not at all be disregarded and could possibly be taken up in the future. On the other hand we have to realise that so many other international conferences take place more or less at the same time – like for instance in these days the congress on local development under the Greek presidency in Rhodos – that it becomes more and more difficult to attract enough participants. This problem was already discussed at the last AGM in Edinburgh, and one of its consequences was the recommendation that EURONET should focus more on smaller and specialised conferences.

In this context we decided to combine the next Annual General Meeting with the final presentation of the CONSCISE project which was one of the main transnational research activities of EURONET within the last period. This reflects also the changing character of EURONET from a traditional membership organisation to a “working network” which consists of a number of transnational projects and working groups built on co-operative relationships between individuals, initiatives and organisations which share common values like economic self-help and local development and the perspective of a social or solidarity-based economy.

Of course, EURONET is not the only European network in this field, other networks which share more or less the same values have been set up during the last decade and finally a number of other networks and organisations have taken up these values. In this context EURONET has become part of a bigger social movement for a social and solidarity-based economy which is expanding over European boundaries and increasingly operating at a world wide level. During the last period EURONET members have been increasingly involved in co-operative activities with groups and organisations in Africa, Asia, North and Latin America. At the same time efforts have been made to form a world wide coalition or network for a social and solidarity-based economy, like in Quebec in 2001, in Porto Alegre and in Florence in 2002, and eventually in November 2003 at the European Social Forum in Saint Denis near Paris.

Therefore, the AGM in 2003 has to reflect and to decide about the role EURONET should play within these movements in the future, and especially about the way EURONET could or should be represented on international boards, joint committees or whatever kind of institutions will emerge within these movements in the future. We are convinced that EURONET has a lot to offer as during the last decade it has been pioneering some of the most relevant aspects, like local and community development, social economy and social enterprises, third system and last not least the concept of social capital, the main subject of this conference.

2. Organisational development

2.1 Executive Committee:

During the period 2000/2003 the Executive Committee consisted of:

The Chair:

Karl Birkhölzer, Technische Universität Berlin, IFG “Lokale Ökonomie”, Sekretariat FR 4-8, Franklinstr. 28/29, D-10587 Berlin, Tel: +49 30 314 73394, Fax: +49 30 31 42 11 17, Karl.Birkhoelzer@tu-berlin.de

The Vice-Chair:

John Pearce, Community Business Consultant, East Broomhill, Harburn, West Calder, GB-West Lothian EH55 8RE, Tel: +44 1506 870477, j.pearce@cali.co.uk

The post of a third member is still vacant.

2.2 Network Council and Regional Contact and Co-operation Offices:

According to the statute the Network Council consists of representatives of the regional contact and co-operation offices. In the period 2000/2003 in alphabetical order:

José L. Aguilera, Equipo Estrategias, c/Dr. Antonio Cortés Lladó, 5, 1º B., E-41004 Sevilla, Spain, Tel/Fax: +34 95 4987943, estrategias@vnet.es, <http://www.vnet.es>

Norman Chipakupaku, Trade Africa 2000 Plus Ltd, 17, High Street, GB-Hawick TD9 9BZ, Tel: +44 1450 374 387, Norman@chipaku.fsnet.co.uk, based in Hawick/UK, but appointed for North-South-Co-operation, mainly with Africa

Manuela Coutinho, Oficina, R. Monsenhor Daniel Machado, 144/146 – R/C, P-4900 Viana do Castelo, Tel/Fax: +351 58 82 85 24, M.Manuela.Coutinho@seg-social.pt

Willem Hoogendijk, Stichting Aarde, Postbus 533, NL-3500 AM Utrecht, Tel: +31 30 23 23 80, Fax: +31 30 638 44 80, wh@aarde.org, <http://www.aarde.org>

Innovations et réseaux pour le développement / IRED Nord, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 31, I-00185 Roma, Tel: +39 06 491 504, Fax: +39 06 491 898, info@irednord.org , <http://www.irednord.org>
For the moment no personal representative nominated,

Harald Kegler, Ziebigker Str. 28, D-06846 Dessau

Mary Mellor, Sustainable Cities Research Institute, Northumbria University, 6 North Street East, GB-Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST, Tel/Fax: +44 191 227 3500, m.mellor@unn.ac.uk , <http://www.sustainable-cities.org.uk>

Bosse Olsson, Swedish Business Development Agency / NUTEK, Liljeholmsvägen 32, S-117 86 Stockholm, Tel: +46 681 92 54, Fax: +46 681 66 65, bosse.olsson@gw.nutek.se , <http://www.nutek.se>

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Martine Théveniaut-Muller, Praticiens de l'action et de la réflexion pour l'insertion / PARI, rue Cadène, F-11580 Alet-les Bains, Tel/Fax: +33 4 68 69 92 88, martine.theveniaut@wanadoo.fr

Alan Tuffs, CBS Network, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG, Scotland, Tel: +44 131 229 7257, Fax: +44 131 221 9798, info@cbs-network.org.uk , <http://www.cbs-network.org.uk>

Dominique Wittmer, 52 rue Principale, F-67510 Obersteinbach, Tel: +33 3 88 09 56 82, Fax: +33 3 88 09 50 18, josiane.podsiadlo@wanadoo.fr

Rudolf A. Würigler, Kompetenzzentrum feed-back, Postfach 8911, CH-3001 Bern, Tel: +41 31 39030 90, Fax: +41 31 390 30 91, feed-back@swissonline.ch

2.3 Membership

The Network counts a total of 82 registered members at present, among them 76 members fully entitled to vote from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain as well as 6 associated members from Africa (Benin, South Africa, Togo), Asia (India, Nepal) and America (USA). The majority are not only representing their local organisation, but also other regional, national and even international networks.

EURONET is so far not directly represented as an organisation in any other European or international network. But, there have been strong links and /or co-operative relationships to the following European or international networks:

- Association Internationale pour un Développement Local Soutenable / DELOS-Constellation, Brussels,
- Combined European Bureau for Social Development / CEBSD, Brussels,
- Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development / COMMACT,
- Confédération Européenne des Coopératives de Production et de Travail Associé, des Coopératives Sociales et des Entreprises Participatives / CECOP, Brussels,
- International Association of Investors in the Social Economy / INAISE, Brussels,
- Réseau Européen des Villes et Régions de l'Économie Sociale / REVES, Brussels.

2.4 Membership Fees:

As decided at the last AGM in Edinburgh membership fees are valid for a full period between two AGMs: at present 150 € for organisations and 40 € for individuals. Membership fees can also be paid "in kind" through agreements about the free exchange of information services, magazines, brochures and further information material. As can be seen in the financial report, membership fees contribute only very little to the real organisational costs of running the co-ordinating office. Efforts to raise core funding for the co-ordinating office have so far not been successful, mainly because there is still no budget line available for funding organisational costs for European networks. Therefore, co-ordinating activity has had to rely on funds which come from research and development activity undertaken by Technology Network Berlin.

2.5 Newsletter / Website

As most of the members do have access, information is circulated by e-mail on request. For financial reasons, a regular newsletter or bulletin is still not available. On the other hand there are so many other newsletters and readers around that it seems not to be too important to create another one.

Recently, the EURONET website is being amended. Compared to the former site the structure will be slightly changed in some ways. We intend to offer some more services such as the opportunity to download actual texts, the EURONET flyer in three languages or the membership application form: www.european-network.de

2.6 Co-ordinating Office:

Since the last AGM in Edinburgh in 2000 Anna-Maria Rohleder who most of you already know has taken full responsibility for all co-ordination activities, mainly on a freelance basis. She was supported by Michael Brock as secretary until the end of June in 2002.

The co-ordinating office is located within the secretariat of the Interdisciplinary Research Group Local Economy at the Technical University Berlin, FR 4-8, Franklinstr. 28/29, D-10587 Berlin, Tel: +49 30 31 42 67 40, Fax: +49 30 31 42 11 17, euronet@tu-berlin.de

3. Research and Development Activities:

In the report from the chair 2000 nine major fields of research and development activities were identified which have been pursued by EURONET in its first decade:

- Local Partnerships for Promoting Social Cohesion
- Key Values, Structures and Concepts of a Social Economy in Western Europe
- Community Economic Development and Social Enterprises
- Third System and Employment
- Education and Training for Multipliers in the Third System
- East-West Co-operation
- North-South Co-operation
- Social Capital
- Acting Locally for Employment

In the period 2000/2003 EURONET continued to be active in all these fields. But, as EURONET can build upon its expertise from previous research (see publications), dissemination and implementation activities became more and more important (see international exchanges). Although the East-West co-operation remained difficult, considerable progress has been achieved within the North-South co-operation: e.g. the Scottish-Indian partnership for community development (for more details contact John Pearce or Alan Tuffs), the emergence of a social enterprise network in Africa (contact Norman Chipakupaku or Tony Gibson), new exchanges with social economy initiatives in Latin America (contact Karl Birkhölzer).

Furthermore, EURONET has been involved in the following new research and development projects:

“The Contribution of Social Capital in the Social Economy to Local Economic Development in Western Europe / CONSCISE”, funded by the European Commission, DG Research, led by the Institute for Social Science Research, Middlesex University, London / UK, together with partners from Germany, Great Britain, Sweden and Spain (March 2000 - May 2003): Results and information are available on the website: www.conscise.mdx.ac.uk

“The Role of Intermediary Support Structures in Promoting Third System Employment Activities at Local Level / RISO”, funded by the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, led by Technology Network Berlin, with partners from France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy (December 2000 – September 2001): Results have been published (in English) in 2001 (see publications). The follow-up application “Transnational Network of Social Enterprises and Neighbourhood Economies / TRANSNEST” within the Community Programme “Acting Locally for Employment” was unfortunately for whatever reasons not successful.

“Université Coopérative Européenne / UCE”, within the Community Programme LEONARDO, led by Groupement des Collèges Coopératives, Aix-en-Provence / France, together with partners from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain (January 2002 – October 2004): Information is available on the website: www.uhb.fr/ttb .

“LeMat – Decent work in the Social Economy”, within the European Community Programme EQUAL, led by the co-ordinator Renate Goergen, together with partners from Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy and Sweden (May 2002 – June 2005): Information is available on the forthcoming website: www.lemat.it

During the period 2000 / 2003 the network was increasingly used by its members to form a considerable number of other research and development partnerships. We are definitely not able to report on all of them, but we are proud to acknowledge that the network is used extensively in that way. That’s what networks are about!

The latest activity was a joint application within the 6th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration, carried out by the European Commission, DG Research, for setting up a “Network of International Co-operative Research and Education on Local Economic Development / NICOLE”, led by Technology Network Berlin together with partners from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal and Spain. A decision will be expected in the second half of 2003, and in the case of success, this project would lead to further perspectives for our network.

In this context the most important issues for the future would be:

- Strengthening local and community economic development at a world-wide level
- Developing an agreed theoretical framework for the Social Economy / Third System
- Developing micro-economic tools for Social Enterprises (social management, social capital, social marketing, social auditing)
- Implementing education and training schemes for multipliers and professionals

4. International Exchange of Experience

Within the period 2000 / 2003 EURONET gained more and more acceptance and was invited to an increasing number of events at European as well as at international level to present its findings:

25. – 29.10.00	“EUREGIA 2000: For a Europe of the Regions”, Working Group: “Peace and Reconciliation through Local Development”, with participants from South Africa, Northern Ireland, South East Europe, Germany and Great Britain, Leipziger Messe, Germany
23./24.11.00	“Ensemble pour une Économie plurielle”, Secrétariat d’État de l’Économie solidaire, Tours, France
13./14.01.01	“The Role of Intermediary Support Structures in Promoting Third System Employment Activities at Local Level”, starter seminar, Berlin, Germany
8./9.02.01	“Preparatory Measures for a Local Commitment for Employment”, launching seminar, European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, Brussels
16./17.02.01	“Participation between Markets and Organisational Democracy”, International Sociological Association, Munich, Germany
1.-3.03.01	“Social Accounting and Audit in the Community Sector”, international symposium, Social Audit Network, Edinburgh, Great Britain
26./27.03.01	“Rencontre du chantier économie solidaire”, Alliance pour une monde responsable et solidaire, Paris, France
6.06.01	“Open Space Seminar on Social Accounting and Audit”, Swedish Business Development Agency, Högbo Bruk, Sweden
7.-9.06.01	“The Social Capital of the Future”, 7 th European Conference on Social Economy within the programme of the Swedish presidency of the EU, Gävle, Sweden
7.-9.06.01	“The Social Capital of the Future”, International research conference on co-ops and social enterprises, International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee, Gävle, Sweden

12.-18.09.01	“Pour une Économie Locale Soutenable”, preparation meeting for the 5 th European Congress of EURONET, Alet-les-Bains, France
17.-18.09.01	“Preparatory Measures for a Local Commitment for Employment”, closing seminar, European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, Brussels
9.-12.10.01	“Second International Meeting on Globalization of Solidarity”, Groupe d’Économie Solidaire du Québec, Working Group: “Peace and Reconciliation through Local Development”, Quebec City, Canada
13.14.11.01	Values@Work – European Conference on prospects for the Social Economy within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Belgian Minister of Budget, Social Integration and Social Economy, Ghent, Belgium
10./11.12.01	“Build a Common Voice and a Common Position from the European Social and Solidarity Economy in the Debate in Corporate Social Responsibility”, European Confederation of Workers’ Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises, Brussels
31.01. – 2.02.02	“Université Coopérative Européenne”, opening seminar, Groupement des Collèges Coopératives, Aix-en-Provence, France
12.03.02	“The Solidarity Economy in Europe”, coordinating meeting of European networks, European Confederation of Workers’ Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises, Brussels
1. – 3.04.02	“Les Habitants dans une Économie Locale Durable”, preparatory meeting for the 5 th European Congress of EURONET, Acteurs du Développement des Territoires en Languedoc-Roussillon, Carcassonne, France
26.-28.05.02	“Social Economy as a Tool of Social Integration and Cohesion”, Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales, Salamanca, Spain
28./29.06.02	“Demokratie und Sozialkapital”, international congress, Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung Berlin, Germany
3.-6.10.02	“Community Economies in Europe”, international conference, Katholisch-Soziales Institut, Bad Honnef, Germany
30.10.-2.11.02	“EUREGIA 2002: Regional Development in Europe”, congress and exhibition Leipziger Messe, Leipzig, Germany
12./13.11.02	“Socioeconomia de la Solidaridad”, international conference, Goethe-Institute, Montevideo, Uruguay
18.-21.11.02	“Socioeconomia de la Solidaridad”, seminar series, Goethe-Institute, Cordoba, Argentina

5. Publications

The following publications are available through the Co-ordinating Office:

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development (eds.): *People’s Economy - Wirtschaft von unten. Approaches towards a new social economy in Europe*, Dessau 1996

Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau / Europäisches Netzwerk für ökonomische Selbsthilfe und lokale Entwicklung (Hrsg.): *Wirtschaft von unten - People's Economy. Beiträge für eine soziale Ökonomie in Europa*, Dessau 1996

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: *Grundwerte und Strukturen sozialer Unternehmungen in Westeuropa*, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Veröffentlichungsreihe Nr. 29d, Berlin 1997

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: *Valeurs fondamentales et structures des entreprises sociales en Europe Occidentale*, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication No. 29f, Berlin 1997

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: *Key Values and Structures of Social enterprises in Western Europe*, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication Series No. 29e, Berlin 1997

Europäisches Netzwerk für ökonomische Selbsthilfe und Lokale Entwicklung / Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.: *Ökonomische Gemeinwesenentwicklung und soziale Unternehmen, Erfahrungen*,

Instrumentarien, und Empfehlungen, Berlin 1997 (Kurzfassung von 30d)

European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development / Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.: Community Economic Development and Social Enterprises. Experiences, Tools and Recommendations, Berlin 1997 (summary of 30e)

Réseau Européen de l'économie solidaire et du développement local / Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.: Développement économique communautaire et entreprises sociales. Expériences, outils et recommandations, Berlin 1997 (version abrégée de 30f)

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: Der Beitrag sozialer Unternehmen zur ökonomischen Gemeinwesenentwicklung in 6 europäischen Ländern, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Veröffentlichungsreihe Nr. 30d, Berlin 1998

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: The Contribution of Social Enterprises to Community Economic Development in 6 European Countries, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication Series Nr. 30e, Berlin 1998

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: La Contribution des Entreprises Sociales au Développement Economique Communautaire dans 6 Pays d'Europe, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication No. 30f, Berlin 1998

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: Das Beschäftigungspotential Sozialer Unternehmen in 6 EU-Mitgliedstaaten, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Veröffentlichungsreihe Nr. 31d, Berlin 1999

Birkhölzer, Karl, et al: The Employment Potential of Social Enterprises in 6 EU Member States, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication Series Nr. 31e, Berlin 1999

Pearce, John: Was ist Social Auditing?, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Publication Series Nr. 32, Berlin 1999

Birkhölzer, Karl: The Third System as an Innovative Force, Hektograph. Manuskript, Berlin 2000

Craigmillar Euronet Conference 2000: Local Regeneration and Social Capital. Building Capacity – Taking Action. Edinburgh September 7th – 9th 2000. Documentation, Craigmillar European Programme, Edinburgh 2001

Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.; European Network For Economic Self-Help and Local Development (Eds.): Promoting Local Employment in the Third System: The Role of Intermediary Support Structures in Promoting Third System Employment Activities at Local Level, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V., Berlin 2001

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eds.): Employment in Household Services. Final Report by Alessandra Cancedda, CERFE Rome, EFILWC, Dublin 2001

Geddes, Mike; Benington, John (Eds.): Local Partnerships and Social Exclusion in the European Union. New forms of local social governance?, Routledge, London / New York 2001

Spear, Roger et al. (Eds.): Tackling Social Exclusion in Europe. The contribution of the Social Economy, Ashgate, Aldershot 2001

CONSCISE Reports: www.conscise.middlesex.ac.uk