Social & Solidarity Economy as Development Approach for Sustainability (SSEDAS) in EYD 2015 and beyond

Sustainable and Solidarity Economy
www.solidarityeconomy.eu

16th October 2017
University of Economics in Bratislava
Session: Social and Solidarity Economics

Elisa Delvecchio
Project Coordinator
elisa.delvecchio@cospe.org
LOT 2: Global Learning projects outside of the formal education system led by an NSA or an association of NSA from EU member states and acceding countries

Starting date: February 1\textsuperscript{st} 2015
Ending date: January 31\textsuperscript{st} 2018

Total cost of the action: 4.454.981 EUR

Contribution of the European Commission: 3.785.986 EUR (84,98%)

Other Contributions: NGOs, Local Authorities, private sectors (15,02%)
Promoted by an European network:
46 territories, 23 countries

1. COSPE – Italy (4)
2. Südwind – Austria (2)
3. SOS FAIM – Belgium (1)
4. BILS – Bulgaria (2)
5. DEŠA-Dubrovnik – Croatia (1)
6. CARDET – Cyprus (1)
7. Ekumenika Akademie Praha Europe – Czech Republic (2)
8. NGO Mondo – Estonia (1)
9. Pro Ethical Trade Finland – Finland (1)
10. Ressources Humaines Sans Frontières – France (4)
11. INKOTA – Germany (4)
12. Fair Trade Hellas – Greece (2)
13. Cromo Foundation – Hungary
14. Demnet – Hungary (2)
15. Fairwatch – Italy
16. Waterford One World Centre – Ireland (1)
17. Green Liberty – Latvia (1)
18. KOPIN – Malta (1)
19. Foundation of the Fair Trade Coalition – Poland (3)
20. Instituto Marques de Valle Flor (IMFV) – Portugal (2)
21. Terra III Mileniul III Foundation – Romania (2)
22. Slovak Centre for Communication and Development – Slovakia (1)
23. Mirovni Institut – Slovenia (1)
24. CERAI – Spain (3)
25. The Cooperative College – UK (2)
26. Think Global – UK (2)
Geographical Extension
The SUSY project represents an opportunity to increase people’s awareness and understanding of the interdependencies that characterize the world in which we live today and to promote active citizenship. The main goal of the project is to analyze, debate, support and strengthen the principles and the practices of SSE, so as to promote a more fair and equitable paradigm, starting with the mapping and reporting on the most significant practices.
SSE: a growing reality

- **Brazil**: National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy 2003; SSE Brazilian Forum (22,000 enterprises). Brazil Solidarity Economy Information System (SIES)
- **Ecuador, Mexico**: national laws since 2011 and 2012
- **Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France**: National Laws on Social Solidarity Economy
- **Luxembourg**: Minister for Social and Solidarity Economy
- **Italy**: 10 regional laws on SSE
  - **Emilia-Romagna Region**: Regional Law on solidarity economy (2014); **Reggio Emilia** city: the welfare Councilor in charge of SSE; **Modena** city: a development plan on SSE is undertaken.

- **In Europe** the SSE generates employment for more than 6% of the active population.
What are the main activities of SUSY project?

The activities of the project can be divided into 4 key areas:

1. Mapping and Research
2. Training - Dialogue Oriented Workshops and European/locals training
3. Awareness-raising and media campaign
4. Advocacy
International Research: Transformative economy Challenges and limits of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in 55 territories in EU

Collective work involving all 26 SUSY partners and related researchers

Coordination research group: Riccardo Troisi – FairWatch
Monica di Sisto – FairWatch
Alberto Castagnola – FairWatch
The international research is divided into two parts:

1 A synthesis of the 55 case studies, organized by countries/areas, with an introduction on the economic and social contexts, as well as current laws and norms on the topic.
A Comparative Analysis based on the delivered researches and conclusions

- **Northern Europe and center Europe** 4 territories in **UK**: North East, North West, South East, Greater London. **Germany** 4 Northrhine-Westfalia, Bavaria, Berlin, Hamburg. **Austria** 2 territories: Eastern territory, Vienna, Naufahrtweg. Western territory, Salzburg. In **Poland**: South-West region of Poland Central and Southern region in Poland. In **Latvia** 1 territory in **Ireland** 1 territory in **Finland** 1 territory in **Belgium** 1 territory in **Estonia** 1 territory

- **Mediterranean** 4 territories **Italy**: Toscana, Marche, Puglia e Emilia Romagna. 4 territories in **France**: -Midi- Pyrénées, Aquitaine, Languedoc Roussillon, Paris 3 territories in **Spain**: Valencian Region. Aragon Region, Andalucía 2 territories in **Portugal**: Lisbon Region, Alentejo Region. 2 territories in **Greece**: Athens, Thessaloniki 1 territory in **Cyprus** 1 territory in **Malta**

- **Eastern Europe** (2 territories in **Hungary**: Baranaya County, Pest County 2 territories in **Bulgaria**: - North Central Region, South Western Region. 2 territories in **Czech Republic** 2 territories in **Romania**: South Muntenia, Bucharest-Ilfov 1 territory in **Slovakia**, 1 territory in **Croatia** 1 territory in **Slovenia**)

- **World area** America Latina, Africa, Asia (**Tunisia, Brasile, Bolivia, India, Malesia, Uruguay, Palestina, Mozanbico**
International research objectives

1. To select the meaningful practice on SSE in each territory

2. To analyse the experiences in a horizontal way (i.e. within their own district, between different types of approaches) and transversally (i.e. comparison of best practices between North and South of the World);

3. To compare them and highlight a common and global framework of economic alternatives

The research activity works out to better the skills of the SSE in order to create a “dynamic of reciprocity and solidarity which links individual interests with the collective ones” (from RIPESS definition).
Summary methodology
Step by step

- Selection in each territory of 20 relevant Stakeholders on SSE
- Between them, selection of 5 stakeholder to interview
- The researcher, supported by the local expert, individuate the Good Practice according with the results of the interviews
- The local expert, supported by Associates and Partners NGOs, submit to the SC the selection of Good practice for final approval
- The researcher organize a field visit to the selected GP for further analysis, interview, video and pictures.
- The researcher draft the research report in English
- On the basis of the 55 research reports, the group of research proceed with a comparative analysis
Analysis and evaluation of the Good practice
Criteria:

- Management model
- Turnover and job creation/quality
- Social and ecological externalities
- Communication and advocacy
- Networking
- Dealing both with DC and SSE
- Economic and social impact
- Transformative power and sustainability
- Positive and negative externalities on the territory
- Evaluation of the stakeholder
International research overview
Some figures

- 55 Territories (46 in Europe and 9 in the world)
- 32 countries
- 37 SSEDAS partner involved
- 82 researchers
- More than 1100 practices mapped
- 1080 stakeholders involved
- 550 interviews
- 55 videos
- 100 Local and national authorities

Not only figures: People Territories A widespread research!
Finding a shared definition

- different approaches
  - Social and Solidarity Economy
  - Social Economy
  - Solidarity economy
  - Social Business
  - Circular Economy
  - Collaborative Economy
What Social and Solidarity Economy is:

According to RIPESS, the most relevant network of Social and solidarity economy globally, “Social and Solidarity Economy is a movement that seeks to change the whole social and economic system and puts forth a different paradigm of development that upholds Solidarity Economy principles. The SSE is a dynamic of reciprocity and solidarity which links individual interests with the collective ones”.

Social Solidarity Economy Values

- People and Planet at the center
- Work, dignity and self-management
- Democracy, human rights, participation
- Gender equality
- Solidarity, inclusion, enhancement of “social capital”
- Local and community roots
- Global vision
- Resilience
- Environment and biodiversity protection
- Common goods sovereignty (water, air, landscape, energy, food, knowledge and culture heritage)
Main economic sectors

Organic agriculture and food sovereignty
Fair Trade
Critical Consumption, Sustainable lifestyles
Reuse, recycling and redistribution
Eco-friendly goods and services provision
Recreation and sport
International development cooperation
Sustainable tourism
Health and social care
Ethical finance and banking
Energy conservation
Maintenance and repair
Non-monetary systems
Renewable energy and green technologies
Open/free IT

This categorization is clearly limited and synthetic, given that there are practices that implement activities in several of these fields and that there are systemic/district practices or multisector networks that don’t fit such classification.
International research overview

Sectors Overview

- Organic agriculture and food sovereignty
- Critical consumption
- Reuse, recycling, redistribution
- Recreation and sport
- Health and social care
- Ethical finance and banking
- Energy conservation
- Non monetary systems
- Sustainable lifestyles
- Eco-friendly goods/services
- Sustainable tourism/travelling
- International Dev.coop.
- Maintenance and repair
- Renewable/green technologies
- Open/free ICT
Prevalent sector Agro-Food

1. Organic agriculture and food sovereignty
2. International Dev.coop.
3. Fair trade
4. Reuse, recycling, redistribution
5. Multi-sector
6. Eco-friendly goods/services
7. Sustainable tourism/travelling
8. Renewable/green technologies
9. Sustainable lifestyles
10. Ethical finance and banking
11. Recreation and sport
12. Health and social care sector
Economic functions

Analysing the traditional economic functions carried out by the selected practices, a preponderance of the functions related to Trade and services: 42%
Production and processing: 29%
Consumption: 17%
Distribution: 12%.
It is interesting to observe that the majority of the practices fall within one of these categories:

1. **Cooperatives**: 15
2. **Associations, NGOs or Foundations**: 13
3. **Formal network or cluster**: 10
4. **Social enterprises**: 9
5. **Private company**: 5
6. **Informal group**: 2
The participation in the analysed 55 experiences

More than 13,000 people involved (members, voluntaries)

More than 1,500 people are directly or indirectly employed

The research show the great ability of SSE for engagement and participation and at the same time the capacity to build a real alternative economy, to create employment, guarantee rights and expand individual and collective awareness.
Some figures: turnover

Total turnover estimate €90 millions:

- € 42,500,000, 9,000 workers (GP Shared Interest, UK)
- € 14,200,000, 800 workers (GP Manchester Home Care, UK)
- € 3,900,000, 150 workers (GP “The Central Cooperative, Andaman and Nicobar)
The impact on the surroundings
Strengths and Weaknesses

More specifically, we can observe the high value given to the social and environmental dimension in most of the analysed practices. Another noteworthy factor is the one relating to self-management and participation. The ability to work in networks and to create relationships with other realities in the territory and beyond is very positive but 41 on 55 practices analysed are single initiatives. Furthermore, the weakest performances are observed in the communication and advocacy capacities of these entities.
Emerging models that work

- **Innovative agriculture**
  - Community supported agriculture (CSA)
  - Farmers' markets
  - Urban gardens, shared gardens, collective farming
  - Changing food practices and reducing food waste.
  - Food Policy Council
Emerging models that work

- Reduce, reuse, recycle and circular economy
- Renewable energy provision
- Recover enterprises and self management (Workers Buyout)
- Ethical Finance, ethical banks, equity found, crowdfunding
- Responsible tourism
- Fair trade, group of consumers, food sharing platforms...
Challenges for the near future

- A greater level of collaboration between existing initiatives: building network at local and international level and sharing advocacy strategies
- Training and information on SSE: learn from successes and mistakes
- More communication: let know the successful and replicable experiences
- More support from the public administration: legal and political frameworks
Another world isn't just possible
it's indispensable. We Just need to build it

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

elisa.delvecchio@cospe.org