

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #10



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1. Details on the 2015 SFE CEFEC Conference

- ✿ The SFE CEFEC 2015 Conference *Social Firms - a model for poverty reduction?* will take place in Olten (Switzerland) in the period **9-11 September 2015** and it will be organized by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland.

The conference is organized by the School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences and Art Northwestern Switzerland together with Social Firms Europe CEFEC. The Federal Social Insurance Office's national programme against poverty and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO support the European Social Firms Conference 2015.

For **more details** concerning the Agenda, the Registration process or other information about the 2015 Conference please visit us on the Conference website <http://www.socialfirmsconference.ch>

- ✿ **European Social Firm of the Year Award 2015**

This year we continue with the SFE CEFEC tradition to award the Social Firm which presents best. We hope that you will encourage your own social firm or other social firms in the orbit of SFE CEFEC movement. First of all, we are thinking of SFE CEFEC members, but befriended social firms can also apply. Also, for more information or how you can register for the 2015 Award of Social Firm of the Year please visit the website <http://socialfirmseurope.org/awards/>

2. ACCES PLUS project



- Earlier this year it was organized **the second study visit** which took place in **Turnhout (Belgium)** in the period **10-13 March 2015** hosted by the SFE CEFEC member **WEB/ Work Experience Companies**. This study visit was organized with the support of **Bie Bijmens** who is the director for training and education at WEB.

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- **Judith Salamon** (*expert in professional training within Die Querdenker*) participated at the visit to the Centers of Social Inclusion, developed in the project, from Alba Iulia, Făgăraș, Botoșani, Siret and Suceava, during the period 16-20 February 2015.



- **Dominik Murawa** (*expert in professional training from SFE CEFEC*) participated at the visit to the Centers of Social Inclusion, developed in the project, from Alba Iulia, Făgăraș, Botoșani, Siret and Suceava, during the period 27 April - 1st of May 2015.



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3. ECOURI Project

- ✚ SFE CEFEC is **partner in the project ECOURI (ECHOES) - Innovative measures of social economic development based on competitive advantages in Maramures and Bucovina**, which started in January 2015 and will be implemented until December 2015.
- ✚ The **overall objective** of the project is the development of social economy in Bucovina and Maramures by setting up six social enterprises as flexible and sustainable instruments for economic development of the North West and North East regions, the integration and reintegration into the labor market of people at risk of social exclusion focusing on Roma, people with disabilities and women.
- ✚ In this project, **SFE CEFEC will involve 4 experts** and will create a comparative study, will organize an internship and trainings on social economy.



4. Social Economy – a step for a better future Project

- ✚ SFE CEFEC is **partner in the project Social Economy – a step for a better future**, which started in January 2015 and will be implemented until December 2015.
- ✚ The **overall objective** of the project is the development of structures of social economy by implementing actions that will lead to the creation and development of 14 social enterprises in the regions where the Romanian partners are registered.
- ✚ In this project, **SFE CEFEC will involve 2 experts** and will organize an exchange of experience and a manual of best practices concerning social inclusion and social economy.

5. EDF participation



➤ **Mrs. Athena Frangouli**, our representative in the EDF Board, and **Ovidiu Tuduruta**, SFE CEFEC representative and President of the EDF Youth Committee, took part on 30-31 May 2015, at the **EDF Annual General**



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Assembly in Warsaw which gathered representatives from the disability movement from all over Europe together with representatives of European institutions, including the European Commission, the European Ombudsman, and the Agency for Fundamental Rights, and Polish authorities. The **AGA** hosted an active debate on the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe and its member states.



6. SFE CEFEC visits and events participation



- **Leif Wäsfelt and Patricia Sundström** from **Ryseviken AB** (Sweden), our colleagues and members of **SFE CEFEC** visited our Secretariat in Suceava on 23 April 2015. We spent a great time visiting AREAS social cooperatives for furniture in Sasca Mica in the process of development, inside of the rehabilitation center for people with mental disabilities from Sasca Mica and we met the mayor from Sasca, Mr. Gheorghe Fron.

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7. The First Romanian Law on Social Economy was voted!



On **30th of June 2015** the project of the Law on Social Economy was passed by the Romanian Parliament. Now, the law was given for promulgation to the President and we hope that in 60 days the norms for implementing it will be available.

Some of the **important points included in the Law** are:

- ✓ The statute of social enterprise is recognized by the provision of **a certificate of social enterprise**
- ✓ The **social enterprise of insertion** is the social enterprise that has, permanently, at least 30% of its employees persons belonging to a vulnerable group
- ✓ The statute of social enterprise of insertion is certified by the provision of **the social brand**
- ✓ Inside the Ministry of Labor there will be created a **compartment for the development of policies and strategies in the field of social economy** and for providing information for the persons interested in this field
- ✓ The **National Commission for Social Economy** will be developed as an organism of coordination and monitoring with the aim of contributing at the development of social economy

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