

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #12



Contents:

"A network for your social economy vision"

1. Invitation to the 2016 SFE CEFEC Conference (p. 2)
2. Executive Committee meeting (p. 2-3)
3. Events participation (p. 3-4)
4. EDF participation (p. 4-5)
5. New project applied (p. 6)
6. The First European Day of Social Economy Enterprises (p. 6)
7. New SFE CEFEC members (p. 7)

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

"A network for your social economy vision"

1. Invitation to the 2016 SFE CEFEC Conference

- Social Firms Europe CEFEC cordially invites you to participate in the **29th Annual European Conference of SFE CEFEC „Social Economy and Mental Health”** which will be held in Łódź (Poland) on **22-23 September 2016**. The conference will create a unique opportunity for European social entrepreneurs and NGOs active in the field of social economy to share professional knowledge and experience and show the social impact of social enterprises focusing on vocational integration of people with mental health problems. Participants will also discuss the challenges that social firm sector is facing and look together for solutions of the common issues that arise when creating valuable workplaces for vulnerable people. The Conference organizing committee has prepared an interesting agenda included in the **Conference programme**: plenary sessions, a number of workshops and study visits in local social enterprises.

For more details please contact the Conference Organizers: registration@29cefecconference.pl or SFE CEFEC Secretariat: socialfirmseurope@gmail.com, phone: +41 62 957 20 41, website: www.29cefecconference.pl and www.socialfirmseurope.org



2. Executive Committee meeting



"A network for your social economy vision"

- SFE CEFEC organized in the period **10 – 11 March 2016** the **Executive Committee meeting** in Lodz (Poland), hosted by our member KŁOS inside of a very new and very nice structure, opened as daily care center with a new restaurant on the ground floor. We had a very productive meeting discussing about the 29th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference, the programme of the event and about the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee members.

3. Events participation

- **Study visit at BAG Germany** - **Dominik Murawa** and **Michal Filutowicz**, representatives of Friends of the Disabled Society and Social Firm KŁOS, visited in the period **14-16 February 2016** FAF, Bag-if and the social firms Lebenswelten, Mosaik, Integra from Berlin. The purpose of the study visit was to explore the legal and practical aspects of social firms and the role of



- organizations supporting social enterprises in Germany, in order to facilitate further development of the model of social firm in Poland. The study visit empowered them to push further development of the model of social firm in Poland and convince public authorities to take necessary steps to create the law concerning social firms.
- **Study visit in Republic of Moldova**, organized by **Tom Zuljevic-Salamon** representative of Die Querdenker Austria, for a group of students coming from Linz University of



"A network for your social economy vision"

- Applied Science in the period of **14-15 April 2016**, visiting the occupational therapy workshops developed inside of the Psychiatric Residency Centers in Badiceni/Soroca Raion and Brinzeni/Edinet Raion. Also they visited a clubhouse in Edinet, developed by AREAP Association in partnership with Bucovina Institute from Romania, the Labor Ministry from Moldova and financed by Austrian Development Agency.
- On **5th May 2016** Social Firms Europe CEFEC representatives participated in a working meeting with the European Commissar on Regional Policy Mrs. Corina Crețu and the President of the European Parliament Development Commission Mrs. Iskra Mihaylova with focus on the **Simplification of the EU funding instruments**. SFE CEFEC General Secretary Petru Vasile Gafiuc and Youth EDF President Ovidiu Tuduruță met also Mr. Mircea Diaconu, MEP, Vice-president of the EP Education and Culture Comision, Mr. Vasile Dancu, Romanian Vice Prime Minister and Mr. Alexandru Potor, President of the Local Action Groups Federation in Romania. The activity of our network SFE CEFEC was appreciated and we have been invited to come with innovative proposal in supporting social enterprises. The event was hosted by Babes Bolyai University from Cluj, Romania, Faculty of European Studies.



4. EDF participation

- Social Firms Europe CEFEC General Secretary Petru Vasile Gafiuc participated in the period **20 -22 May 2016** at the **Annual General Assembly** of the European Disability Forum in Dublin (Ireland) with Ovidiu Tuduruță, delegate of SFE CEFEC and Chair of EDF Youth Committee. It was a very good event debating article 12 from CRPD related with

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

"A network for your social economy vision"

legal capacity and also good opportunity to discuss the possibilities for a close cooperation with EDF, the most representative organization in Europe for people with disabilities.



"A network for your social economy vision"

- Petru Vasile Gafiuc and Ovidiu Tuduruță had a very productive **discussion with the EDF President, Mr. Yannis Vardakastanis**, concerning article 27 from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognizing the **right of persons with disabilities to work**, on an equal basis with others.



Social Firms Europe
CEFEC

"A network for your social economy vision"

5. New projects applied

- **Feel Culture - Innovative training for tourism and cultural operators on accessible and interactive tourism for visually impaired** applied in March 2016 inside Erasmus+ Programme, KA2. The applicant of the project is the Social Enterprise for Education and Lifelong Learning from Athens, Greece.
- **A Bond for Social Inclusion through the promotion of abilities – Bo.S.I.** applied in March 2016 inside Erasmus+ Programme, KA2. The applicant of the project is Blijdorp Romania Association.
- **Certifying Personal Competencies of ethnic minorities for an inclusive labour market - CEPECO** applied in March 2016 inside Erasmus+ Programme, KA2. The applicant of the project is Bucovina Institute for Social Partnership from Suceava, Romania.
- **TRISS Trasferimento Impresa Sociale nella Scuola** applied in March 2016 inside Erasmus+ Programme, KA2. The applicant of the project is Il Grande Carro Soc. Coop from Italy.
- **Recognition of Social Inclusion Activities [ROSIA]** applied in May 2016 inside Erasmus+ Programme, KA3. The applicant of the project is Plymouth and District Mind Association (PADMA) from UK.

6. The First European Day of Social Economy Enterprises

- On 1st of July 2016, the **European Economic and Social Committee** will bring together in **Brussels** its institutional partners, as well as several stakeholders in order to have a comprehensive view of the situation, create synergies and discuss next measures and actions to be taken in order to fully unleash the potential of the sector.

For more details about this event, please check the following website:
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-social-economy-enterprises>

7. SFE CEFEC members

- Our network has **41 members** from **19 European countries and from Japan**.
- The **newest member** of SFE CEFEC is **Community Wood Recycling from UK** which collects and reuses waste wood. The activity is highly labour-intensive so creates lots of jobs, training and volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged people – including those with mental health or learning difficulties, those coming through drug/alcohol addiction, ex-offenders or those who have lost their self-confidence and the habit of work because of long-term unemployment: <http://www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk/>



For more information, **contact:**

Secretariat of Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Contact person: Alina Bîrsan

Address: Universitatii street, no 48, room 7, Suceava, Romania

Phone/Fax: +40 230 524128

Web: www.socialfirmseurope.org

E-mail address: socialfirmseurope@gmail.com

Share your best practices with us on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Social-Firms-Europe-CEFEC/154268338080566?ref=hl>