

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #14



"A network for your social economy vision"

Contents:

- 1. Review of the 29th SFE CEFEC Conference (p. 2- 3)**
- 2. SFE CEFEC Award (p. 3)**
- 3. Networking participation (p. 4)**
- 4. New members on board and new collaborations (p. 5)**
- 5. New projects applied (p.5-6)**
- 6. News about the 30th SFE CEFEC Conference 2017(p. 6)**

"A network for your social economy vision"

1. Review of the 29th SFE CEFEC Conference

- The 29th Annual European Conference of SFE CEFEC „Social Economy and Mental Health” took place in Łódź (Poland) on **22-23 September 2016**. The conference created 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 discussed the challenges that social firm sector is facing and looked together for solutions of the common issues that arise when creating valuable workplaces for vulnerable people.



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- **Conference program was as it fallows:** plenary sessions, 3 workshops and 3 study visits in local social enterprises. The moderation of the event was a great job done by Michal Filutowicz and the venue was very well chosen for plenary sessions, workshops, panel discussions.



Social Firms Europe CEFEC

“A network for your social economy vision”

- This year at the Conference attended more than **155 participants** from **19 countries** include Poland. Congratulation for Social Firm KŁOS in cooperation with Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Niepełnosprawnych (TPN), Social Support Association “JA-TY-MY” and City of Łódź Council for your professionalism in organizing the 29th SFE CEFEC conference.



2. SFE CEFEC Award

- The **winners of the 2016 SFE CEFEC Award** were 2 organizations: first prize went to **Spółdzielnia Socjalna „Dalba”** and the second one went to **the Restaurant Philharmonic of Taste**, both social firms from Poland.
- **Cooperative Brewery Dalba** wants to change the image of people mentally disabled in the society and to create workplaces for people with mental disability. They added their passion to the beer and the sea and embedded it all in the tradition the region.
- **Restaurant Philharmonic of Taste** wants to approach people through music and attract customers by organizing classical music concerts with musicians performing live in restaurant.



3. Networking participations

- **Meto Salijevic (the very first SFE CEFEC General Secretary)** visited in the period **3-5 November 2016** the SFE CEFEC Secretariat in **Suceava**, in order to discuss about different possibilities of cooperation and work for the 30 years anniversary book. It was a great pleasure to present our social cooperative Lemn Therapy and the Psychiatric Residential Center from Sasca/ Cornu Luncii and one short trip to Republic of Moldova to visit our member AREAP, the new social enterprise on laundry and the Psychiatric Residential Center in Branzeni.



- Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc within an Erasmus Project had the opportunity to visit Mrs. Athena Frangouli and her organization **Society of Social Psychiatry & Mental Health, Greece**. In their agenda was included also SFE CEFEC network and the topic discussed was about the status of migrants in both countries and the partnership between SFE CEFEC and EDF.



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4. New members on board and new collaborations

- Starting with October 2016 in **SFE CEFEC Executive Committee** joined two more members from **Switzerland and United Kingdom** responding positive to our proposal to be part of SFE CEFEC Executive Committee. The representatives are Mr. Roland Z'Rotz and Mr. Richard Mehmet. We grateful state that are **15 countries** which have representatives in the SFE CEFEC board.

❖ Collaboration with Romanian National Authority

- Within the **Executive Committee Meeting** on 21 September 2016, in Lodz/Poland, members of SFE CEFEC board met **Mr. Mihai Tomescu, President of Romanian National Authority** for Disability in order to set up priorities for a future collaboration in the field of deinstitutionalization of psychiatric system in Romania. This project idea is promoted by our colleague Lorenzo Toresini which hosted this year a study visit of the governmental representatives in Bolzano/Italy. Our network it is willing to support this big project as a partner association. Also Mr. Mihai Tomescu attended the SFE CEFEC conference as well.



5. New projects applied

- **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. The objectives of the projects are fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged learners, including persons with a migrant background, while preventing and combating discriminatory practices and enhancing access to quality and inclusive mainstream education and training with a focus on the needs of disadvantaged learners and Enhancing the quality of non-formal learning activities, youth work practices and volunteering.

"A network for your social economy vision"

- **SFE CEFEC** was invited to be part of a consortium led by **Oxford Group** for the project announced by **European Commission EASME** titled **Social business initiative (SBI) follow-up: cooperation between social economy enterprises and traditional enterprises**. The main objective of this contract is to receive an analytical study and a set of validated recommendations that would support further enhancing of business cooperation between social economy enterprises and more traditional, profit-oriented firms.

6. The 30th Annual European Conference of SFE CEFEC "Social Firms In Digital Economies" will take place in Linz (Austria) on September 27-29 2017.

- The 30th Conference will mark **30 years since the establishment of the network**. The event will be organized by the Social Firms Europe CEFEC and the **Social Firm Pro Mente, Austria**. The **main themes** are: to present the new challenges for jobholders to meet the requirements of digital economies; the impact of a digitalized society on everyday work; commercial relevance of social firms in digital economies; psychosocial impacts of digital economies; the role of social firms in digital economies.



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