

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #6



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"A network for your social economy vision"

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Social Firms Europe CEFEC

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1. First announcement about 2013 SFE CEFEC Conference



Dear SFE CEFEC members, we wanted to inform you that the **2013 Conference** will take place in Greece, the period proposed for the meeting being **9-12 October 2013**. The 2013 president of SFE CEFEC is Mrs. **Athena Frangouli**, founder member and ex-general secretary of Social Firms Europe CEFEC. She works at the **Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health** Greece, as a coordinator of the steering committee whose main objective is to take part at the policy and strategic issues of the executive committee of the Society, consult with the employees for the improvement of services and to empower the people with psychosocial problems.

We will come with more details in the next weeks, taking into account the fact that in the period **15-16 of March 2013** will take place the **Executive Committee meeting** in Athens, Greece, where the members will discuss about the 26th Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC.



2. The new Secretariat team of SFE CEFEC

Since January 2013, the **Secretariat of Social Firms Europe CEFEC** was taken over by AREAS Suceava from Romania, the people behind this job being:



Petru Vasile Gafiuc – General Secretary of SFE CFE

He is a founder and president of AREAS, a NGO which was established in January 2005 in Suceava-Romania. He has a Law degree and master degree in Management for Adult Educations Institutes. From 2002 until present he was coordinator of many projects financed by European Union Programmes and from 2005 he is a coordinator for several projects in mental health field in cooperation with Pro mente Ober Ostericht from Austria looking to develop in special occupational therapy and professional counseling for people with mental disabilities in South Eastern Europe. He was the President of Social Firms Europe CEFEC in 2012 and he organized with AREAS team the Conference in Suceava - Romania in the period of 20-22 September 2012.

Alina Bîrsan – Secretary of SFE CEFEC

I am 26 years old and took my Bachelor and Master degrees in History and International Relations. In 2009-2010 I was an Erasmus student in Warsaw (Poland) and this opportunity helped me to better adapt to different cultural backgrounds and to improve my communication skills. I started to work with AREAS in March 2011 as a volunteer and, since then, have been involved in different activities and European projects.

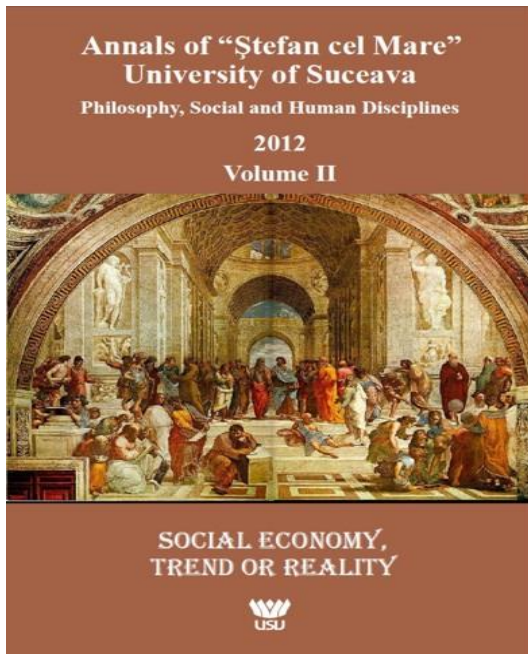


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3. The University volume



An important part of the 25th Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC was the University Academic Session, which led to the creation of a University volume where 14 research papers were published and one presentation about the *Social Economy, Trend or Reality* Conference. The papers are part of the Annals of "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, the Philosophy, Social and Human Disciplines Series.

You can find the volume by accessing the following link:

<http://www.apshus.usv.ro/>

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4. New information about EDF

a. Details about the EDF 2012 meeting



Between **26 and 27 of May 2012**, AREAS Suceava, represented by Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc, was invited by European Disability Forum to participate in the AGA Meeting as a chair man of "Social Firm Europe – CEFEC". The meeting took place at Scandic Hotel in Copenhagen, Denmark. We attended the conference and met with leaders of disability people from all EU countries, Ex Soviet Union countries, Arab countries and IDA (International Disabilities Alliance). In the Coffee break Hall we have arranged a promotional stand where our organization was presented with leaflets and a short presentation in power point format.

The **interest for our organization:**

- promotion at international level at an European Event with promotional materials and stand
- find out about international movement of people with disabilities; see that all disabilities are very well represented at the European Commission and European Council.
- we are part in the 2020 EU strategy and we have to keep pushing the local authorities to offer facilities for people with disabilities and following the EU legislation and International Convention as the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007, and quickly became world's most quickly

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ratified human rights treaty that counts, as till March 2012 about 112 ratifications and 153 signatures worldwide

- to facilitate the access of our users to apply for services from local, national and European institutions as European Agency with Special Educational Needs
- there was recognized that the work emplacement is the most efficient tools of social inclusion of all vulnerable groups, and should be done in partnership with the economic sector and the intervention through education is the most sustainable
- we have to work in a strong network to support the movement in the field of social inclusion and we must be a voice for our users at all levels. For more details <http://www.edf-feph.org/>

b. Our delegate for the 2013 EDF meeting

We want to inform you that Mrs. Athena Frangouli was established to be the **nominated delegate** of Social Firms Europe CEFEC to the **EDF Annual General Assembly** which will take place in Athens, between **25 and 26 of May 2013**. During this meeting there will take place elections for the renewal of all EDF governing bodies.

Also, we wanted to nominate a representative for the **Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum** which will take place this summer and which is consulted on an on-going basis in view of mainstreaming the youth perspective in EDF work.

5. The Declaration of the 25th Conference of SFE CEFEC



As you already know, during the 25th CEFEC Conference in Suceava, Mrs. Christiane Haerlin presented a Social Firm Europe CEFEC initiative which consists of a **Declaration to support the development of policies for social enterprises and cooperatives in Europe, Social Firms and Social Enterprises Set all their Hope on Europe.**

Actions taken for the **promotion** of the Declaration:

- ✚ It was presented to all the **participants at the 25th CEFEC Conference**
- ✚ it was posted on the **website** and the **Facebook** page of the 25th CEFEC Conference
- ✚ It was posted online using the platform **Petitions24.com** and the link was sent to all our members, collaborators and partners, obtaining 130 signatures
- ✚ It was promoted by the SFE CEFEC member, **Asociatia pentru Dezvoltare Umana (AEDU Romania)** on their website (www.asoc-edu.ro), on their social economy project website: www.economie-sociala.org, and in the framework of their Inter-regional Community Practice Network for Social Economy, sustained online at: <http://www.economie-sociala.org/reeaua-interregional-tip-comunitate-de-practic> .

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- ✦ It was sent to the Romanian Ministry of Labor, together with an Information Letter where we explained some aspects about the Declaration
- ✦ It was sent to the **Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development**, together with an Information Letter
- ✦ It was sent to the **European Disability Forum**
- ✦ It was sent to the **European Commission** – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

6. SFE CEFEC projects

The SFE CEFEC Secretariat established in its Strategy for 2013-2016 the development of financed projects and, taking into account this objective, we involved **SFE CEFEC in two European projects**:

- ✦ *Performance Management Framework for Third Sector Organizations (PERMeATE)*

Application date: 31 January 2013

Promoter: Anglia Ruskin University (UK)

Short description: The project tackles a specific societal challenge that contributes to achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and job-creation. It will provide a comparative perspective of third-sector organization performance management with the widest possible coverage in relation to the research by developing national and regional perspectives into more broadly applicable European solutions.

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- ✦ *Preparing European Citizens to promote a really European Society (PEC)*

Application date: 21 February 2013

Promoter: Associação Juvenil Ganda Cena (Portugal)

Partners: Doğal Yaşam Derneği (Turkey), Fundatia Umanitara Esperanta (Romania), Die Querdenker (Austria), Social Firms Europe CEFEC (Belgium), Sveglia Cittadina (Italy), Asociacion Cultural Lieva (Spain)

Short description: the project is a learning partnership, in the Grundtvig programme, and it aims to promote a European active and participative citizenship, teaching and learning, with non-formal education methods.