

Social Firm Europe

30TH

CEFEC

ANNIVERSARY BROCHURE
1987 – 2017

Social Firms
in Digital Economies



Email : socialfirmseurope@gmail.com

Website : www.socialfirmseurope.org

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Christiane Hearlin and other members of CEFEC

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Based on informations from Christiane Haerlin, and Athena Frangouli both first members of CEFEC, Marianna Georgalis and Petru Vasile Gafiuc .

This publication reflects the views only of the SOCIAL FIRM EUROPE CEFEC. Any member cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained there in.

Editors

Petru Vasile Gafiuc – General Secretary of Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Christiane Haerlin – BAG Society of Social Firms Germany

Athena Frangouli – Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health from Greece

Andrei Tris - AREAS Suceava

Graphic & design

Bogdan Clipa



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FOREWORD

Social Firms Europe CE FEC was founded in 1987, becoming an independent and responsible network in Europe and in other parts of the world.

A unique method used by many countries to integrate people with disabilities could not exist or survive long without a common network that shares the same values and the same goals and without a common strategy of social firms. So, Social Firms UK and BAG – Society of Social Firms Germany created a network of social firms with all the member states of the European Union, this becoming in time an international network. These achievements required considerable time and efforts, as Social Firms Europe faced many new situations where it had to make decisions of great importance and complexity and implement them together with the other CE FEC members. Among the many missions in recent years, were that of understanding how this new network, once created, would work and also the complex economic mechanism of a large economic area which tends towards an economic union. Therefore, social economy was in a position to define its exact location and towards which target groups is headed, so that it would answer to the needs of its beneficiaries, but also supporting the economy of the country where it is located. This special edition reviews the activity of Social Firms Europe CE FEC for 30 crucial years, considering some of the main difficulties encountered during this period and the challenges faced by CE FEC and its beneficiaries in this time of financial transition and major changes in the threshold of the 30th year of existence.

I wish to extend sincere thanks to all members of Social Firms Europe and to the entire staff for their outstanding contribution, which made possible the publication of this material.



Petru Vasile Gafiuc

General Secretary of Social Firms Europe -CE FEC
And President of AREAS Suceava

Who would have thought that the CEFEC Network has been going strong for a 30 years when a handful of us gathered around a table in Berlin in 1987 to exchange views on employment of psychiatric patients?

With all the worldwide, European and regional changes over these years it is a real treasure to celebrate this year. The drive to achieve better conditions of life for psychiatric and other patients by means of creating work, the European wide reforms in this field and the hosting countries, with all their enthusiasm has contributed to this success.

It's a special wish and task to maintain and strengthen this network in present times of economic squeeze and hardship and thus give hope to people with mental health and other problems to lead an active life in dignity.



Much love,

Christiane Hearlin

CEFEC Founding Member

CEFEC development shows how Europe can share and work on common grounds of philosophy, vision aims and practices that promote the well being of the most vulnerable group of people, those, suffering from psychosocial problems.

Social Firms Europe CEFEC is an inexhaustible spring of energy and stubbornness to with the bet!



Athena Frangouli,

CEFEC Founding Member

CEFEC - 30th Conference

30 years of struggling for the impossible

At the time of the first CEFEC conference, still before the first IT revolution, most Western European countries faced dramatically increasing unemployment. Following, quite often participation of mentally ill people in working life had been questioned in principle terms. Mentally ill people at work? In face of increasing demands and pressure at many workplaces, this seemed to be impossible at that time and still seems often today.

Should mentally ill people really work? Instead of being free from work and toil? Which seems to be even better for your mental health?

Yes and no, you will say after thirty years of experience in social firms.

There is no general answer to this too complex question.

Social firms find individual answers instead.

For thirty years, social firms have faced the challenge of creating individual solutions for disadvantaged people to participate in working life. They created and carry on to create jobs, which are both dignified and appropriate at the same time. As participation in working life according to one's own needs and possibilities is seen as a basic human right.

For thirty years, social firms have faced the challenge of creating such reasonable jobs again and again - against the backdrop of a constantly changing world of work and currently under the conditions of industry 4.0. And given the size of this challenge this looks like a constant struggle to make the impossible a reality.

I'm happy to see so many victories in so many places throughout Europe and I'm convinced that social firms will continue to succeed in this struggle.

The incredible development that job creation in social firms has made in so many European countries over the past 30 years is unthinkable without the commitment and often voluntary efforts of so many dedicated people. These activists deserve our deepest respect and our fullest appreciation.

And CEFEC itself has been around for almost thirty years only because dedicated Europeans are committed to cross-border exchange and transnational cooperation. This is living Europe.

At a time when the European Union is shaken by serious turmoil and its cohesion is at stake such interpersonal relationships across borders cannot be over-appreciated. The European institutions may be shaken. It is by such relationships and personal friendships that Europe is hold together.



With this in mind, I wish all those who keep on struggling in social firms and in CEFEC,
Good luck for our common future in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Erwin Seyfried

Founding President of CEFEC

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

History – Overview of Conferences CE FEC 1985 - 2017

This material is taken from the conferences and minutes of meetings.

Compiled by Christiane Haerlin, 14th March 2012 and information provided by The General Secretariat of CE FEC for the last 5 years.

1985 – 1987 First Steps towards a European Network of Social Firms

The historical context motivated the movement:

England, with Douglas Bennett and others was the first to start psychiatric reforms, followed by Italy, where Basaglia created work in special cooperative for psychiatric patients, who turned into workers;

Germany went through a federal equate to reform psychiatric hospitals and created community services, also work for patients and clients.

Greece struggled with the help of the EU to abolish inhuman conditions on the island of Leros.

The Initiators for a European network:

Christiane Haerlin delivered a paper at a EU London conference in 1985 on „Self-Help Firms for Psychiatrically Disabled“ and met Mr. Daunt, Brussels from the office of Employment programmes, who was convinced that social firms provide more sustainable work than many EU training projects so far.

Erwin Seyfried, Meto Salijevic, Christiane Haerlin and Arnd Schwendy started with their newly founded German umbrella for social firms, FAF, to organize a first meeting.

Structure of Conferences and meetings:

From the beginning till the present date the main structure has been to present papers, workshops for discussion and visits to projects with participation of users, sometimes a product fair of the firms.

The participants were mostly professionals of social firms, sometimes EU representatives, sometimes users, who were always welcomed, but did not always fit into the conference structure.



Organization

From the start FAF, Berlin provided the CE FEC office/secretariat till 2003, when it went to Athens and then to Social Firms UK London/Redhill up to now.

(There is material, folders, boxes full of documents in Berlin and Athens on these years)

Topic: Predominant: To abolish the appalling situation of psychiatric patients in Europe by helping them to leave institutions and realize their human rights as workers, integrated into society

(The Greek Island of Leros with the hospital was one of the main objectives that needed an urgent solution, the change being supported by the EU).

The Brussels Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Patrick Daunt supported CE FEC Conferences for at least 3 years.

INTRODUCTION

What it is Social Firms Europe CE FEC?

Social Firms Europe CE FEC – is a network

Social Firms Europe CE FEC is the only network of Social Firms across Europe! At a time when employment is increasingly difficult for individuals who are at a significant distance from the labour market because of their disability or disadvantage, it is essential that we create the jobs for such groups and one of the most obvious solutions is to facilitate the start-up and operation of Social Firm and social co-operative businesses that offer real, paid, sustainable employment options within a supportive working environment.

Social Firms Europe CE FEC is a truly participative and integrative network, working on behalf of its members across all the EU member states to:

Promote the model of Social Firms and social co-operatives at EU, national and regional levels

- Collect data and evidencing about the impact of Social Firms
- Facilitate networking and sharing of best practice between members
- Share skills and expertise of members
- Encourage and explore opportunities for further research into the Social Firm model as it operates in different EU countries
- Promote and facilitate where possible inter-trading opportunities between Social Firm businesses



CEFEC supports organizations that want to create new workplaces

CEFEC supports any organisation that wants to create new workplaces for people with mental health problems and other people with disabilities. CEFEC has set up a guideline with detailed instructions on how to set up social firms. Exchange of information and mutual support on a national level

CEFEC provides its members with current information on new developments in their country, and promotes the creation of national networks. In every country there is one elected representative who provides up-to-date information. CEFEC also organises regular national meetings in different European countries.

CEFEC gives its members a voice

CEFEC represents the interest of its members. CEFEC gives its members a voice against national governments and the European Commission. In the framework of the European Commission, CEFEC is a recognised NGO in the sector of economic integration.

A Database on social firms.

CEFEC has set up a database with information on social firms in all European countries. The database contains information i.e. on address, contact persons, activities, areas of business and other.

Analysis of the current situation of social firms in the different European countries

CEFEC provides its members with up-to-date information and publishes a Newsletter. The CEFEC secretariat also supports its members to find partners for transactional programmes and to organise transactional activities.

CEFEC Activities

- CEFEC supports organizations that want to create new workplaces
- Exchange of information and mutual support on a national level
- CEFEC gives its members a voice
- A Database on social firms
- Analysis of the current situation of social firms in Europe
- Publications and practical support
- Computer mailbox and Internet
- Annual conferences
- A definition of social firm



CEFEC definition of social firms

A social firm is a business created for the employment of people with a disability or other disadvantage in the labor market. It is a business, which uses its own market oriented production of goods and services to pursue its social mission. A significant number of its employees will be people with disability or other disadvantage in the labor market. Every worker will be paid a market wage or salaries appropriate to the work- whatever their productive capacity. Work opportunities should be between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged employees. All should have the same employment rights and obligations

(adopted by the General Assembly 1996 in Linz, Austria)

Further explanations:

The social enterprise

Any business, which is created primarily for the purpose of promoting the economic and social integration of, disadvantaged people. (Its activities would include training, rehabilitation as well as commercial activity)

The cooperative

The term should be confined to a legal structure for a company, which is owned and managed democratically by the members.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES from 1987 until today

CEFEC organises a conference on social firms every year. Each conference gives the possibility to meet partners in the field and to exchange information. The conference includes also a fair of social firms, where CEFEC members can present their products and services to colleagues and to a wider public.

1987 1-st CEFEC Conference, Berlin, Germany – Conference of European Firms, Co-operatives and Employment Initiatives for Psychiatrically Disabled

Period: 9 – 11th March, Berlin, West Germany

President from 1987 – 1991: Erwin Seyfried, (head psychologist, now Professor at Berlin University)

Host: FAF Berlin (umbrella organization of German social firms)

Participants: GB, Denmark, Netherlands, Greece, France, Italy, West Germany as guests formed a round table of about 30 people.

Topic of the CEFEC Conference 1987

Get together in the wave of a unique movement of psychiatric reforms

Building an international network, annual meetings, FAF as coordinating office, more EU programmes geared at real work.

Important recommendations for social firms: to be created small units, employees status, normal salary, training.

1988 2-nd CEFEC Conference, Torino, Italy – European firms, Cooperatives and Employment Initiatives for the Psychiatrically Disabled

Period: 9th – 11th May, Torino, Italy

President: Erwin Seyfried

Host: Alessandro Guiglia, National Coordinator of the Italian Cooperatives Anna di Mascia, Nuova Cooperative, Torino

Participants: France, Netherlands, GB, Italy, Germany, Greece, Spain, Switzerland added up to 27 people.

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1988

Exciting to be in the homeland of Basaglia and Italian cooperatives. The famous „Turin Guidelines“

Guidelines for setting up and monitoring work initiatives for the psychiatrically disabled (authors: A working group, headed by Geoff Shepherd and Douglas Bennett, England). Ask EU to support next Conference and joint projects with means of EU Social Fund.

1989

3-rd CEFEC Conference, Maastricht, the Netherlands

Period: 15th -19th April, Maastricht, Netherlands

President: Erwin Seyfried

Host: Mark Richartz , social psychiatrist of Vijverdal Hospital and Community Care and Paul Baten, organizer of EU work project.

Participants: Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Greece, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, England, North Ireland, about 100 people.

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1989

CEFEC conferences start to get bigger and more important.

Start to legalize CEFEC as registered NGO.

At the University Hospital Maastricht in Netherlands

EU project „AZIMUT“, a joint venture of training disabled workers in Italy, Germany, Ireland and Netherlands. Implement the Torino Guidelines. A Trade Fair was organized, a Leros project and a research group was started.



*At the University Hospital
Maastricht in Netherlands*

1990

4-th CEFEC Conference, Southampton, England

Period: 8th – 11th April, Southampton, England

President: Erwin Seyfried

Host: Alan Whitehead, City Council and British Institute of Industrial Therapy, Southampton, Douglas Bennett, Oxford, Bernhard Wehrens, EEC Commission, Brussels.

Participants: about 600 people from the above countries, plus Sweden (numbers are due to EU projects which financed the conference expenses.)

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1990

CEFEC is really big now and wants get more influence.

Charter of rights for disabled people in work, Turin Guidelines, the legal status of CEFEC, who are the users, special training for Firm Managers.



1990-From left to right, Erwin Seyfried (1st President of CEFEC (1987-1991) started the Leros Campaign), Mayor of Southampton, Alan Whitehead (host of the Conference from UK)

1991 Informal CEFEC meeting

Period: 29th November, Barn nr. Amsterdam, Netherlands

President: Erwin Seyfried resigned / Paul Baten from 1991 – 1993

Host: spontaneous group around Paul Baten, manager of work projects in the Netherlands.

Participants: countries as 1991, but a small group of about 30 people (due to ending of EU programmes and structural crisis)

Topic of the informal CEFEC meeting 1991

A sudden crisis between going bigger and digging deeper amongst the steering group CEFEC has developed the legal status, ethical guidelines, annual conferences, implementing EU programmes, but is weak on inner structures, for aims and topics no energy for working groups. The secretariat paid by FAF Berlin has not enough money. Should member's fees rise or EU project get more money in, (for newsletter, annual meeting, and office). The problem is, how to strengthen the new legal body of CEFEC and create a workable basis. CEFEC has now 26 organizational and 8 personal members.

1992

5-th CEFEC Conference, Delphi, Greece

Period: 10th – 12th October

President: Paul Baten, secretary: Athena Frangouli, treasurer: Meto Salijevec

Host: Athena Frangouli, Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health, Athens

Participants: 37 organizations of the countries, (as the years before) about 70 people

Topic of CEFEC Conference

There is still notion of crisis to unite the network and strengthen the structure. The Delphi Centre and atmosphere helped a lot to better the situation.

There are now 59 org. members and 18 individual. The EU programmes AZIMUT, HORIZON, helped, membership fee was raised to 150 Euro, better data bank and information to be spread. The „north“ and the „south“ should be equally represented at the Executive Committee and Eastern countries should be approached.



1993

6-th CEFEC Conference, Londonderry, North Ireland

President from 1993 – 1999: Athena Frangouli, secretary: Paul Baten

Treasurer: Meto Salijevec

Host: David McCure and the Industrial Therapy Organization N-Ireland

Participants: 250 from the countries (as the years before) and including participants from East Europe countries, also from Japan.

Topic of CEFEC Conference

The discussions how CEFEC should grow continue in a wonderful meeting spot overlooking the sea. CEFEC has now 72 org. and 22 supportive members. Full acceptance as an NGO, EUROPSY programme is implemented with office in Berlin, plans of a „Winter academy“ (for manager trainings etc.) by the Dutch Visit at The Old Bushmills Distillery Co.LTD.members, a new Bulletin to members only for better information was started.



1994 7-th CEFEC Conference, Spa, Belgium

Period: 4th -8th October

President: Athena Frangouli

Host: Bernard Jacob and AIGS

Participants: 120 of the countries (as before) with more emphasis on users as participants

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1994

CEFEC takes part in EU programmes, such as HELIOS Programme .All members met in Bonn, Germany. User empowerment is a topic and besides the annual CEFEC meeting there are other workshops and joint projects between countries to strengthen social firms . Winter academy organized by Paul Baten and MARE with 120 participants. This helps also to join the annual conference. Membership goes up and down, at present 69 org. Members and 20 supporters.

1995

8-th CEFEC Conference, Turin, Italy

CEFEC Conference, „Social enterprise: actions and innovative experiences“

Period: 5th – 7th October

President: Athena Frangouli

Host: Anna di Mascio, La Nuova Cooperativa and other cooperatives

Participants: about 180 people from the known countries

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1995

The focus was on „not so big“, and including users and their relatives, the „trilogies“ message was to be seen. Also a definition of Social firm was started in a special group and a CEFEC Reader on social firms. For the first time the Conference has given itself a motto, which should be followed on in the years to come.



*Anna di Mascio – host
Meto Salijevic – treasurer
Athena Frangouli – 3rd president of
CEFEC*

1996

9-th CEFEC Conference, Linz, Austria

CEFEC Conference, „Profit – Nonprofit – Profit“

Period: 2nd – 5th October 1996

President: Athena Frangouli

Host: Christian Rachbauer, Manager of pro mente Oberösterreich

Participants: about 300 from all countries with a strong participation of Austria, but also 60 from Germany, 50 from GB, 10 from Japan, 1 from New York, 18 from Netherlands.

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1996

A very successful part was a Fair of Social Firms products on a professional level – the best a CEFEC Conference ever had. The main other achievement: Bob Grove helped to formulate: The DEFINITION of a SOCIAL FIRM. Unemployment, European programmes, cooperation to main stream firms, Users

1997 10-th CEFEC Conference, Zaragoza, Spain

CEFEC Conference, „Looking back to move ahead – 10 Years of Social Firms“

Period: 1st – 4th October

President: Athena Frangouli

Host: Ramon Rey Arid Foundation, NGO in mental health

Participants: We don't have information, although I was present.

Topic of CEFEC Conference 1997

There was a great number of EU projects which used the event for meetings, workshops etc.


We commemorated the death of one of our founders, Douglas Bennett, Oxford. The venue place was huge and we tried to learn that CEFEC prefers smaller communicative places – this has happened more recently.



*1997– Christiane Hearlin in
Zargossa, Spain*

1998 11-th CEFEC Conference, Athens, Greece

CEFEC Conference, „The reality in social firms and cooperatives: an employees perspective“



Period: 7th – 12th September

President: Athena Frangouli/Bernard Jacob

Secretary: Willem Vugteveen, Belgium

Treasurer: Gerold Schwarz

Host: Athena Frangouli and Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health

Participants: 450 of all countries, many users from Greece

Topic of CEFEC 1998

Social firm's areas presented (tourism, agriculture, services) good management in firms. CEFEC needs more users on the board, says the Brussels administration (which has never ever functioned). The idea was every professional delegate should bring with him/her a user. It was the time of many good ideas and visions, such as going international, but CEFEC was too small and too much grass root like to raise more money and get bigger structures going.

I think there we started the CEFEC Award.

1999 12-th CEFEC Conference, Helsinki, Finland

CEFEC Conference „Potency of Social Firms and Networks working local – thinking global“

Period: 16th – 19th June

President: from 1999 – 2001 / 2003 / 2010: Bernard Jacob, Belgium

Secretary: Gert Rebergen, Netherlands

Treasurer: Peter Stadler, Germany

Host: Marjatta Varanka, FPED/Vates Foundation, Finland (umbrella of 22 Associations) and Heikki Vuorio

Participants: 125 from Finland, 47 UK, 28 Germany, under 10 from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, Uzbekistan.

Topic of CEFEC 1999

Marginalized groups to participate more (users, poor, women), Social Capital, EU programmes on social Enterprise, new legislation in Finland.

2000 13-th CEFEC Conference, Lisbon, Portugal

CEFEC Conference „Equal opportunities in access to employment and citizenship“

Period: 14th – 17th June 2000

President: Bernard Jacob, Belgium



Secretary: Gerd Rebergen

Treasurer: Peter Stadler

Host: Fernando Silva, president of ARIA

Participants: Very similar to 1999

Topic of CEFEC 2000

Renew Portuguese social firms law, users European Network, setting up social firms, quality standards, training of managers, EU programme EQUAL.

2001 14-th CEFEC Conference, Berlin, Germany

CEFEC Conference, „Develop Social Entrepreneurship in Europe and communicate the future“

Period: 12th – 15th September 2001, Berlin, Germany (Few days after „9/11“ New York)

President: Fernando Silva

Host: Peter Stadler, Christiane Haerlin and FAF

Participants: about 200 (biggest group Germans and UK)

Topic of CEFEC 2001

Open Space structure, first time in CEFEC

We nearly cancelled the Conference because of 9/11, but then had a very appropriate atmosphere.

A completely new approach of conference structure in a big hall where even small groups took place in niches: Open Space structure to develop with the participants the topics: Public awareness of social firms, bottom-up empowerment, professional development of managers, market opportunities, public funding, CEFEC office in Brussels, risk money and benefits. There were visits as usual. It was a new exciting structure, never repeated in other conferences.

2002 15-th CEFEC Conference, Guilford, UK

CEFEC Conference, „Social Firm Networking and Development“


Period: 19th – 22nd June

President: from 2001 – 2002: Fernando Silva, psychologist and head of ARIA, Portugal

Host: Bob Grove, chairman of Social Firms UK (umbrella)

Participants: 200 from UK, about 80 from other countries

Topic of CEFEC 2002



All traditional topics

Research forum, start a social firm, strategic partnership within social economy, core values of social firms, social enterprise sector, exhibition, and award. The structure of this conference was more traditional again. CEFEC nearly collapsed, because no one offered a next conference.

In the end Athena Frangouli volunteered for it under condition to take the secretariat to Athens. The conflict behind it was that a good number of executive members after Berlin wanted a wider Agenda (lobbying, more political, website, research etc.) but there was not enough man power/money to do it. We had to come to terms to be content with a conference once a year and see it as a great achievement.

2003 16-th CEFEC Conference, Athens, Greece

CEFEC Conference, „Social Economy, European Social Firms – Cooperatives, What – How – Why“

Period: 2nd – 8th October

President: Athena Frangouli and also Secretary: Athena Frangouli

Secretariat: Marianna Georgalis, Athens

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf, Austria

Host: Athena Frangouli, Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health

Participants: about 200 – as has been the tradition, the biggest group from Greece

2004 17-th CEFEC Conference, Thun, Switzerland

CEFEC Conference, „Social Firms – the challenge of ethical business“

Period: 30th September - 2nd October

President 2004: Verena Feller, manager of TRANSfair Allmendingen, Thun

As from this year on, the president is identified by hosting the Conference for one year.

Secretary: Athena Frangouli,

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf, Austria

Host: Verena Feller, TRANSfair, Christine Krämer, consultant to social firms in Switzerland

Participants: about 170, a good number from main stream economy.

Topic of CEFEC 2004

It was hoped to get Switzerland onto the bandwagon of social firms. So far there were social enterprise and sheltered workshops. Speakers from industry, social economy at the service of the community, local business cooperation, lobbying, social label.

2005 18-th CE FEC Conference, Novo Mesto, Slovenia

CE FEC Conference, „Social economy – innovative approaches to employment“

Period: 8th - 10th September

President 2005: Igor Pavel

Secretary: Athena Frangouli

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Igor Pavel and Sent, Slovenia

Participants: no material

Topic of CE FEC 2005

Financing social enterprise, including social firms, the labor market and employment situation for disabled, quota system, from Rehabilitation to Employment, franchising, social firms in rural areas, trading networks, job coaching.



*CE FEC 2005 president
Igor Pavel
Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf*

2006 19-th CE FEC Conference, Seville, Spain

CE FEC Conference, „Social economy and employment of people with mental health problems“

Period: 19th - 21st October

President 2006: Marcellino Lopez, FAISEM, Andalusia

Secretary: Athena Frangouli,

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Marcellino Lopez and FAISEM

Participants: 100 from Spain, apart from Germany and Finland, small numbers from other countries, only 4 from UK, 1 Netherlands, and 3 Portugal.

Topic of CEFEC 2006

A special focus again on social firms and other work projects for people with mental health background - a special concern of FAISEM.

Employment strategies, social integration of patients, quality standards need for multidisciplinary approach.



Petru Vasile Gafiuc – Romania

Tom Zuljevich – Austria

Marcelino Lopez – Spain

Igor Pavel – Slovakia

(from left to right)

2007 20-th CEFEC Conference, Linz, Austria

CEFEC Conference,, New work, new culture“

Period: 11th - 12th October

President 2007: Christian Rachbauer, pro mente Oberösterreich

Secretary: Athena Frangouli,

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Christian Rachbauer and, pro mente Oberösterreich

Participants: 250, biggest group from Austria, other countries as usual.

Topic of CEFEC 2007

Celebrating 20 years of CEFEC, presenting the „Linz Appeal“ as a major expression of CEFEC's experience and recommendation to new member states and the EU: „Why there should be more social firms in Europe“.

This is printed and also on the website. Also a film was made with executive members and pioneers of CEFEC.

Awards were given to founding.

Rainhold Scharf, Igor Pavel and Christian Rachbauer members and Board members: Erwin Seyfried, Paul Baten, Athena Frangouli, Bernard Jacob, Fernando Silva, Verena Feller, Marcellino Lopez, Rainhold Scharf, Meto Salijevic, Bob Grove, Geoff Shepherd, Peter Stadler, Mark Richartz, Christiane Haerlin, Anna di Mascio, Marjetta Varanka, Gerold Schwarz.



2008 21-st CEFEC Conference, Lisbon, Portugal

CEFEC Conference „Social Firms, Employment and Quality of Life in Europe: Common Strategies for Social Inclusion“

Period: 26th - 27th June

President 2008: Paolo Mendes, Aria,

Secretary: Sally Reynolds

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Paolo Mendes, Carla Silva, Teresa Ribeiro, ARIA

Participants: 214 from 19 countries, 118 from Portugal.

Topic of CEFEC 2008 - employment as a strategy for inclusion and recovery, good practice in social firms, funding social firms, the legal situation, growing the social firms movement.



2009

22-th CEFEC Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

CEFEC Conference, „Social Firms – A new dimension of Enterprise“

Period: 10th - 12th September

President: Pavel Novak, fokus, Prague;

Secretary: Sally Reynolds,

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Pavel Novak and Fokus

Participants: about 200 from the Czech Republic, others from Austria, Germany, Croatia, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Italy, Portugal.

Topic of CEFEC 2009

Social Business Market, appeal to support social enterprise in Czech Republic, social responsibility, mental health and employment social firms values, local authorities cooperation, rehabilitation and starting new social firms.

The big European crisis has resulted in smaller numbers at the conference ever since. We lost the UK participants completely. www.cefec2009inprague.cz



Photo of a group of "Bag Germany"



2010

23-rd Social Firms Europe CEFEC Conference, Cambridge UK

CEFEC Conference, „Harnessing the Power of Business to Change Lives“

Period: 30th June - 2nd July

President 2010: Bernard Jacob;

Secretary: Sally Reynolds

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Sally Reynolds and Social Firms UK

Participants: 300 from UK, about 100 from other countries

Topic of CEFEC 2010

In good atmosphere of a Cambridge university college. The UK members are back with CEFEC, sponsoring for users, hope of renewal with new members Italy, Romania, Ukraine.

CEFEC Award should be every 2nd year only, sales and marketing opportunities, social enterprise (more sheltered) versus social firms, high quality standards of SF UK.

This year conference took place in Fitzwilliam College at Cambridge University, 1-2 July 2010 and was co-hosted with Social Firms Europe CEFEC (<http://socialfirmseurope.org>).

2010
European year
for Combating
Poverty and
Social Exclu



2011 24-th Social Firms Europe CEFEC Annual Conference Merano, Italy

CEFEC Conference, „Work, Dignity and Social Responsibility“

Period: 5th - 7th October

President: Lorenzo Toresini, medical head of Servizio di salute mentale Merano (regional social psychiatry)

Secretary: Sally Reynolds,

Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf

Host: Lorenzo Toresini, Salvatore Raimo and Promos Organization

Participants: about 150 people, 50 from Italy and as the years before about 100 from CEFEC member states, 10 from Germany, 5 from Finland. The European economic crisis has its influence on attendance.



*Petru Vasile Gafiuc – president AREAS, Suceava, Romania
Lorenzo Toresinni – president CEFEC 2011*

Topic of CE FEC 2011

The history and presence of Italian cooperatives - Glad to be in Italy again and gain new CE FEC members there. Looking back to history of psychiatry and cooperatives/work for ex patients in Italy/Germany/Andalusia. CE FEC as successful grass root movement, even in tough times.

2012 **25th Social Firms Europe Annual Conference Suceava, Romania, CE FEC Conference " Social Economy, Trend or Reality"**

Period: 20th – 22th September 2012

President: Petru-Vasile Gafiuc

General Secretary: Sally Reynolds

Treasurer: Polona Stefanic

Host: AREAS Suceava, Romania

Participants: 150 participants from 14 countries

Topics of CE FEC 2012: The Annual Conference it was held in Romania, so it was be an excellent opportunity for the international and national community, academics, social economy researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policy makers, to present their original work and exchange ideas and analyze the topic of the impact and challenges of social economy in the context of The European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

Website: <http://www.economiesociale.eu/cefec2012/>



*The president CE FEC 2012
Petru Vasile Gafiuc*



CE FEC 2012 Conference

2013 **26-th Social Firms Europe CEFEC Annual Conference Corfu (Kerkyra Island), Greece CEFEC Conference “Social Entrepreneurship Today: Grasping the Challenges and the Opportunities”**

Period: 18th – 21st september 2013 Corfu (Kerkyra Island), Greece

President: Athena Frangouli

Secretary: Petru Vasile Gafiuc

Treasurer: Polona Stefanic

Host: Pan-Hellenic Federation of Social Cooperatives (P.O.Koi.S.P.E.) and the Kerkira (Corfu)Koi.S.P.E. “New Horizons”

Participants: 95 delegates from 19 countries

Topics of CEFEC 2013: social entrepreneurship during the present times, the possibilities and challenges that arise today in this field.

The Social Firms Europe CEFEC, with the cooperation of the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Social Cooperatives (P.O.Koi.S.P.E.) organized the 26-th Annual European Conference of Social Firms Europe, CEFEC 2013 on “Social Entrepreneurship Today: Grasping the Challenges and the Opportunities” in Corfu (Kerkyra Island), Greece, from September 18 to September 21st.

The 2013 Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC was organized again in Greece after a period of ten years and it was an excellent opportunity for the international and national community, academics, social economy researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policy makers and entrepreneurs to discuss and debate on the topic of social entrepreneurship during the present times, the possibilities and challenges that arise today in this field.

Phone/Fax: 0030-210-9227611 / 0030-210-9231210

Website: <http://26cefeconference.blogspot.gr/>



*CEFEC 2013 president
Athena Frangouli*



2014

The 27-th Social Firms Europe, CEFEC Annual Conference Gorizia/Nova Gorica (Italy/Slovenia) "1914 – 2014 from the Europe of WW1 to Social Europe"

Period: May 28 to May 31st 2014. Gorizia/Nova Gorica (Italy/Slovenia)

President: Lorenzo Toresini

Secretary: Petru Vasile Gafiuc

Treasurer: Polona Stefanic

Host: Legacoopsociali in partnership with Arcobaleno social cooperative, ŠENT Slovenia, SEA and Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane

Participants: 90 delegates from 19 countries

Topics of CEFEC 2014: Social Europe 2020: the development of Social Business Initiatives and the legislation in the field of social enterprises.

The 2014 Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC will be an excellent opportunity for policy makers, social entrepreneurs, academics, social economy researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials, NGOs and professionals in the field of social economy, the international and national community to discuss and debate on the topic of Social Europe 2020: the development of Social Business Initiatives and the legislation in the field of social enterprises.

Website: 27cefec@arcobalenogorizia.it



*CEFEC 2014 president
Lorenzo Toresini*



2015 **The 28-th Social Firms Europe, CEFEC Annual Conference Olten (Switzerland), Social Economy and Welfare in Transition Olten (Switzerland)**

Period: 9th-11th September 2015

President: Bernadette Wüthrich

Secretary: Petru Vasile Gafiuc

Treasurer: Polona Stefanic

Host: School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences and Art Northwestern Switzerland

Participants: 130 participants among them 40 international guests from 12 countries

Topics of CEFEC 2013: research based knowledge on work integration social enterprises (national and international) and the development of practice and policies concerning work integration social enterprises, exclusion/inclusion (national and international).

The 28-th SFE- CEFEC Conference was successfully held in Olten Switzerland in the period 10-11 September, with large participation of academic researchers and international delegates from 12 countries. Thank you to the School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences and Art Northwestern Switzerland and to Bernadette Wüthrich for the great work.

Website: <http://www.socialfirmsconference.ch/>



*CEFEC 2015 president
Wüthrich Cefec*

2016

The 29-th Social Firms Europe, CE FEC Annual Conference Łódź, Poland, "Social economy and mental health"

Period: 22-23 of September 2016

President: Dominik Murawa from Klos, Lodz - Poland

Secretary: Petru Vasile Gafiuc

Treasurer: Polona Stefanic

Host: Social Firm KŁOS and SFE CE FEC in cooperation with Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Niepełnosprawnych (TPN), Social Support Association "JA-TY-MY" and City of Łódź Council

Participants: 155 delegates from 19 countries

Topics of CE FEC 2016: social impact of social enterprises focusing on vocational and social integration of people with mental health problems in different European countries and discuss the challenges that social firm sector is facing in the field of creation of valuable workplaces for vulnerable groups.

The 29th Annual European Conference of SFE CE FEC „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. Conference program was as it follows: plenary sessions, 3 workshops and 3 study visits in local social enterprises..

Website: www.29cefecconference.pl

More information about the programme are available on www.29cefecconference.pl



*CE FEC 2016 president
Dominik Murawa*



2017 **The 30-th Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC2017 “Social Firms in Digital Economies”**

Period: 28-29 of September 2017.:

President: Bernhard Kolouch

Secretary: Petru Vasile Gafiuc

Treasurer: Dominik Murawa

Host: Social Firm Pro Mente, Austria in collaboration with Pro mente OÖ

Topics of Cefec 2017: The 30th Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe will take place in Linz, Austria in the period 28-29 of September 2017.

The event will be organized by SFE CEFEC and Pro mente Austria in cooperation with Pro mente OÖ. The main objective of the conference is to present the new challenges for jobholders to meet the requirements of digital economies and the impact of a digitalized society on everyday work and commercial relevance of social firms in digital economies.

Website: www.30cefecconference.at



*CEFEC 2017 president
Bernhard Kolouch*



CEFEC Executive Committee March 2017

Social Firms Europe CEFEC Executive Committee Members 2017



*Petru-Vasile Gafiuc
General Secretary CEFEC
AREAS Suceava*



*Bernhard Kolouch
CEFEC 2017 President
Pro Mente Upper Austria*



*Dominik Murawa
CEFEC Treasurer
KLOS Poland*



*Athena Frangouli Society of
Social Psychiatry and Mental
Health Greece*



*Christiane Haerlin BAG
Integrationsfirmen Germany*



*Lorenzo Toresini
Legacoopsociali Italy*



*Bernard Jacob
AIGS Belgium*



*Roland Z'Rotz
Oeko Service Ltd. Sweden*



*Carla Silva
ARIA Portugal*



Paulo Mendes
ARIA Portugal



Jukka Lindberg
Vates Foundation
Finland



Michal Filutowicz
KLOS Poland



Pavel Novak
FOKUS Czech Republic



Marcelino Lopez
IDEA S.A. Spain



Richard Mehmet
Community Wood Recycling UK



Felicitas Kresimo
Legacoopsociali Italy



Leif G. Wastfelt
Rysseviken Sweden



Patricia Sundstrom
Rysseviken Sweden

AU

- Pro Mente Austria - www.promenteaustria.at
- Die Querdenker - www.die-querdenker.at/en/index.php
- Wien Work - www.wienwork.at

BE

- Association Interregionale de Guidance de la Sante - www.aigs.bl
- Mental Health Europe - www.mhe-sme.org
- WEB - Work-experience Companies - www.webwerkt.be

HR

- CeDePe - Association of persons with cerebral palsy and polio - www.cedepe.hr
- Rahela Jurkovic - rahela_jurkovic@yahoo.com

CZ

- FOKUS - www.fokus-praha.cz

DK

- ALL EARS Telemarketing - www.all-ears.dk

FI

- Finnish Central Association for Mental Health - www.mtkl.fi
- VATES Foundation - www.vates.fi
- Woodfox Oy Ltd - www.woodfox.fi

FR

- Association Piotr – Tchaadaev - jean-yves.feberey@wanadoo.fr

DE

- BAG Integrationsfirmen e.V. - www.bag-if.de
- Christiane Haerlin (occupational therapist) - christiane.haerlin@netcologne.de
- Diözesan-Caristasverband für das Erzbistum - www.caritesnet.de
- Meto Salijevic - salijevic@web.de
- Azusa Kasuga - azusakasuga@hotmail.com

EL

- Amphitrite Social Enterprise - www.greece4all.eu
- Society of Social Psychiatry - www.ekpse.gr
- TACT Hellas - www.tacthellas.org

IT

- Legacoopsociali - www.legacoopsociali.it
- Lorenzo Toresini (medical doctor-psychiatrist) - lorenzotoresini@libero.it
- Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale - www.2001agsoc.it

JPN

- Jinzaikyoikusya - www.jk-s.co.jp
- Emiko Kazama (business consultant social businesses) - www.cuvel.co.jp
- NPO S.S.S - www.nop-sss.or.jp

LT

- VSI Zmogiskuju istekliu stebesenos ir pletros biuras - www.zispb.lt

MD

- AREAP - www.areap.org

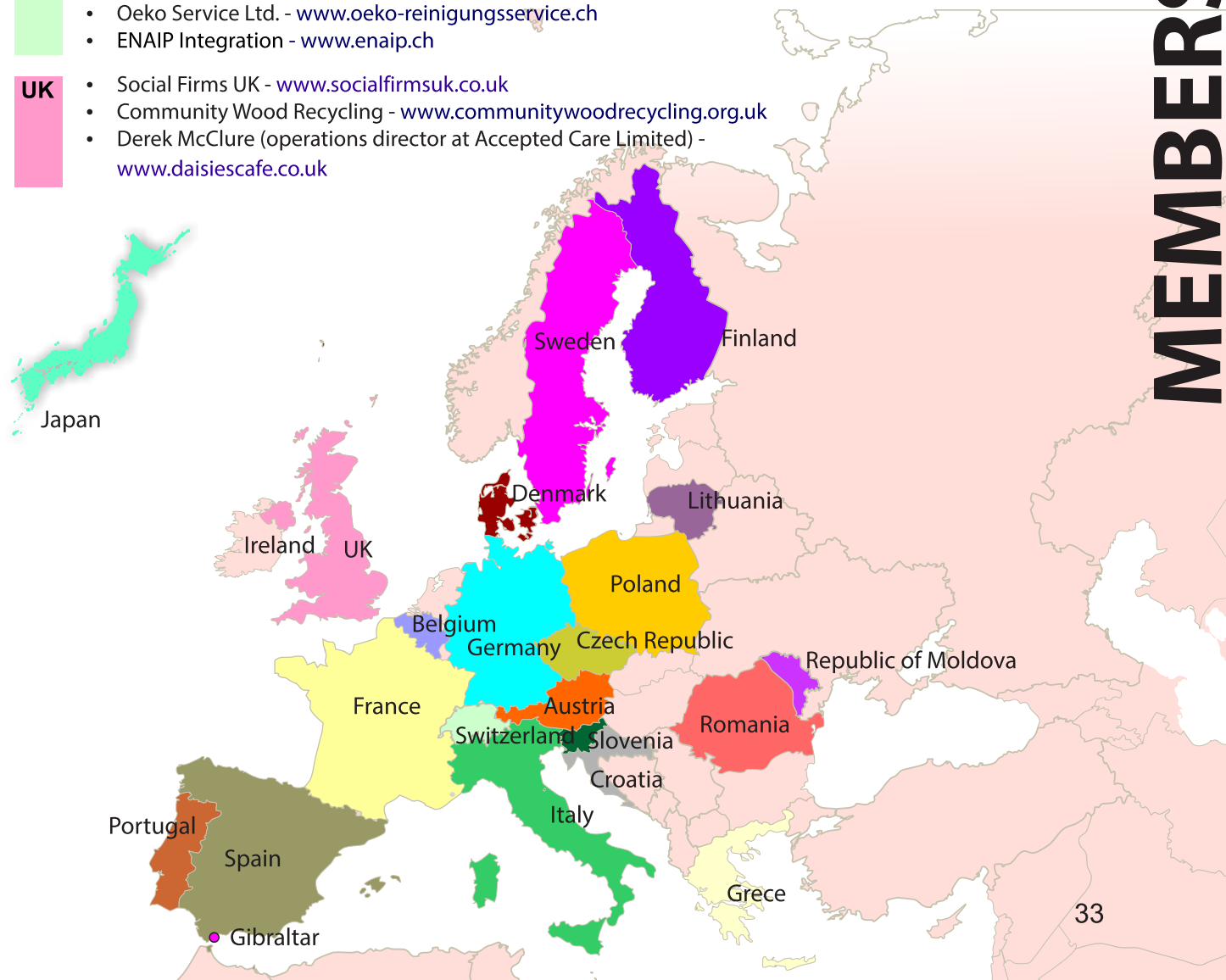
PL

- KLOS Sp z o.o. - www.klos.org.pl

PT

- ARIA - www.aria.com.pt

- RO**
 - AEDU - www.asoc-edu.ro
 - AREAS - www.areas.ro
- SE**
 - Rysseviken AB - www.rysseviken.se
 - Globulen ideell forening - www.landulla.com/globulen
- SLO**
 - Racio Ltd - racio@siol.net
- ES**
 - INICIATIVAS DE EMPLEO ANDALUZAS, S.A. (IDEMA) - www.faisem.es
 - GRUPO SIFU - www.gruposifu.com
- CHE**
 - ESPAS - www.espas.ch
 - Oeko Service Ltd. - www.oeko-reinigungsservice.ch
 - ENAIP Integration - www.enaip.ch
- UK**
 - Social Firms UK - www.socialfirmsuk.co.uk
 - Community Wood Recycling - www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk
 - Derek McClure (operations director at Accepted Care Limited) - www.daisiescafe.co.uk





Social Firms Europe



Secretary of Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Universitatii street, no 48, room 7, Suceava, Romania, 720228

Phone/fax: +40 230524128

E-mail : socialfirmseurope@gmail.com

Website: www.socialfirmseurope.org

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