

Welcome words, by Christiane Haerlin

CEFEC stands for joining the psychiatric reforms in Europe and a major part is to get patients out of hospitals and institutions to help them by getting work and thus leading life in dignity in our society.

Since CEFEC started in 1987 socialfirmseurope has been building networks in Europe in our 18 Member countries from Finland to Greece and happily also in Eastern Europe.

We have defined that social firms on the open market have to pay a fair salary with equal rights for all disabled and disadvantaged workers like nondisabled. This can be read in our newly updated country reports on the website under „Linz Appeal“, challenging the EU to create more work for disabled and disadvantaged and recently also including refugees. We are happy to welcome the EU representatives.

Corona has challenged our aims and structures and in spite of great difficulties we are happy to say that CEFEC has taken advantage of the situation by meeting online : We have strengthened our Representatives in our Executive Committee and activated our work groups.

This year we focus on green economy and our special work group together with the CEFEC board wants to encourage all of you today to understand

* increasing green economy with sustainable structures in social firms is picking up the trend of our decade . Customers will buy our products and services and this will create more jobs for our employees .

For this topic we would like to inspire you all :

* by Raymo from the Swiss Oekoservice and

* by Christoph from the digital social firm AfB , both CEFEC price winners and

* by Peggy the leader of our green economy working group and director of the Belgian WEB organisation.

They will show us the way and I hope you will enjoy the afternoon!