

## **Opening words, by Felicitas Kresimon**

Good afternoon to everyone,

in my role as Social Firms Europe CEFEC president, I have the pleasure to welcome you to the first of a short series of Webinars, organized as part of our annual conferences.

Of course, we would have preferred to be with you face to face in Brussels right now, the place where we had foreseen our conference 2021, together with our partners REVES - European Network of Cities and Regions for Social Economy and Assifero, member of ECFI - European Community Foundation Initiative.

“Social Economy stimulating the transformative potential of Communities” is our title, but it is also the challenge we want to focus from three different points of view: Social economy, Public Authorities and Community Foundations, with the belief that the three, through a stronger cooperation, can:

1. express and enhance innovative solutions and strategies, as for example in the challenge of green transition, topic focused today, and
2. furthermore contribute to the discussion on EU perspectives, addressed through it's policies and investments, to a more cohesive, balanced and inclusive society.

In regard to the latter's, we are happy to welcome specially Mrs. Miia Rossi Gray, policy officer of the EU commission, Dg employment, as well as Dragos Pislaru, Member of the European Parliament from Romania and of the committee on employment and Social Affairs.

## **Opening Words, by Vasile Gafiuc**

Welcome to everyone to the second online SFE CEFEC Annual Conference with no 35 this year.

My Name is Vasi Gafiuc and I'm the Social Firms CEFEC General Secretary and your Moderation from today together with our president Felicitas Kresimon.

Few Rules linked with online events:

In order to have a good event, we ask everyone who will participate to take into consideration the following aspect:

1. if you are not a speaker please close down your video and mute your microphone
2. if you want to address questions for speakers please type them on chat function and we will answer at the end of sessions
3. the conference will also be streamed live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SocialFirmsEurope/> so you can share the link among your peers
4. the event will be recorded

## **WELCOME delegates from 25 countries:**

Somehow it is a unique Conference this year again as all other 34 done before because we are planning a succession of events with 3 webinars (the one of today, a second one 16 of April and 3<sup>rd</sup> one on 28 of April)

organize together with our partners **REVES - European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy and Dafne name (Dafne – Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe) in cooperation with ECFI and ASIFERO**. Also we are planning a General Assembly for June and hopefully one SFE CEFEC Academy session dedicated for young social entrepreneurs.

It seems easy to organize events online on this time and it is difficult to choose where we should participate but I can tell you that from 2007 I never miss a Conference and I like more the official atmosphere there on face-to-face events and I can tell you that many projects we succeed to build just because we see and meet and talk each other.

It is a pleasure and honor to host this event on Zoom from Romania and cohost from Italy.