

37th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference **REPORT**

ACTING FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY

Empowering the Community

6-8 September 2023

Itea | Fokida | Greece

KYRIAKOPOULIO CULTURAL CENTER OF ITEA, ILIA TRIGKA 41-45

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2022/2023 CEFEC president's message

“ACTING FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY. EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY”

The Social Firms Europe SFE CEFEC, having already completed 36 years of operation and creative work, organized the 37th Annual Conference, which took place in the city of Itea, prefecture of Fokida (Phokida) in 6-8 September 2023.

The Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, being one of the founders of the Federation and having already completed 40 years of operation in the field of mental health, is an integral part of the Federation and always contributes in every way to the fulfillment of its goals and objectives. The establishment and operation of 4 Social Cooperatives by the Society, among the 30 Cooperatives running in Greece by other organizations, proves how the labor and economic integration of people from vulnerable groups is a key parameter of its vision and philosophy.

The challenges of our times are countless and the social issues even more. Migration, refugees, the pandemic, natural disasters, social inequalities, climate change and the need for ecological practices are issues that concern us all and mainly affect our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

SFE CEFEC, through the creation of study and working groups seeks to exchange good practices and create initiatives to address socio-economic and environmental crises, always focusing on offering to people and especially to the weak and vulnerable.

The main goal of the Conference was to connect the past with the present and the future of the Federation, something that is of vital importance, in order to leave as a legacy to the next generations our philosophy, vision, way of operation and goals. Also, the presentation of good practices from the Social Economy sector in Greece and Europe, with a focus on Social Cooperatives, was one of the main topics of the Conference. Moreover, we brought up the most crucial goals of the UN's Sustainable Goals, connecting them with SFE CEFEC's working groups for the creation of more job opportunities for the vulnerable groups of people, in the framework of social economy. Finally, the cultural heritage of the place and local entrepreneurship will be points of reference for the Conference and linked to the values of SFE CEFEC.

The continuation and further development of the Federation is a key goal of all members and we will achieve this through networking, cooperation, hard work, initiatives and innovations that we introduce and develop.

We are glad that in Fokida, you had the opportunity to connect with culture, local production and civilization, nature, mountain, sea and a lot of other features of the country.

Keep well!
Athina Fragouli Sakellaropoulou
President SFE CEFEC 2022-2023

Results of the Conference

- More than 120 participants
- Representatives from 17 countries
- 6 presentations in the plenary sessions
- 4 International World Café working groups
- 4 International SFE CE FEC Working Groups
- Announcement of the results of the Working Groups
- Open discussion with representatives from Local Authorities
- Award Ceremony for the 2023 Award of SFE CE FEC
- Award Ceremony for the 3rd Edition of SFE CE FEC Academy
- General Assembly of 2023

SFE CEFEC Executive Committee meeting

6 September 2023



The SFE CEFEC Executive Committee meeting took place in the offices of the Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, in Amfissa, Fokida. The members discussed the final details and all the necessary aspects for the next 2 days of the 37th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference - "Acting for Social Economy. Empowering the Community", but also to plan for 2024 when we will meet in Lisbon/Portugal. Other issues that have been discussed were the active international projects which are implemented by members of SFE CEFEC, have been presented, and the financial situation of the organization.



Workshop about the Greek Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability (KoiSPEs)

In the afternoon of Wednesday 6 September, the participants attended a workshop in the Kyriakopouleio Cultural Center of Itea, about the Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability from Greece with the title "Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability (KoiSPE): Exploring the emblematic scheme of Social Entrepreneurship in contemporary Greece".

Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability (KoiSPE) is the first institutional form of Social Enterprise in Greece and is also the first institutional form of Work Integration Social Enterprises in Greece. They focus on the socio-economic and occupational integration of people with serious psychosocial problems. The KoiSPE are considered emblematic of the Greek setting not only, but also they are the first institutional form of Social Enterprise in Greece.



Their dynamic and performance inspired and led to the opening of the framework for the establishment of other institutional forms of Social Enterprises that focus on other vulnerable social groups besides the mentally challenged. In this Workshop initially we had a general presentation about the Greek KoiSPE. Then we saw the reality of 5 KoiSPE through 5 presentations. Then there was a final presentation that tried to explore the connection between a Greek myth and the problems of modern society.


1st day of the 37th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference

7 September 2023


The day started with the registration of the participants and the welcoming words from the President of SFE CE FEC 2022-2023 Dr. Athina Fragkouli Sakellaropoulou and the General Secretary Mrs. Felicitas Kresimon. We welcomed over 120 participants from 17 different European countries in a CE FEC way.

We continued with the presentation of Dr. Erwin Seyfried (Professor at Berlin School of Economics and Law) and Mrs. Evgenia Vathakou (University of Kent at Canterbury, Ph.D).

Dr. Seyfried presented the origins of SFE CE FEC, with references to deinstitutionalization, the operation of the first social enterprises and the benefits of professional integration of vulnerable groups, linking the principles of SFE CE FEC with the United Nations SDGs. Also, he mentioned the importance of the cooperation and networking in a local and international level and the advancement of experiences to bring to life the UN declaration on human rights for people with disabilities.



Confederation of European Social Firms,
Employment Initiatives
and Social Co-operatives



*"The key to the future is finding the optimistic stories
and letting them be known."*
Pete Seeger

LOOKING BACK AT CE FEC's ORIGINS AND DRIVES

CONTRIBUTION TO 37th SFE CE FEC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Fokida , September 7, 2023

Prof. Dr. Erwin Seyfried
Founding President of CE FEC



Mrs. Vathakou analyzed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, their history and on which point we are today. She also connected civil society with the SDGs and how society can be empowered by the goals and she mentioned the challenges for the achievement of the goals.

World Café & SFE CEFEC Working Groups

In the morning workshops (World Café), participants were divided into 4 groups in different rooms. The 4 groups of the World Café were:

1. Zero Poverty (SDG 1.)

Coordination:

F. Kresimon,
D. Murawa,
V. Chronopoulos



2. Zero Hunger (SDG 2.)

Coordination:

A. Birsan,
M. Danova,
A. Yantselidou

3. Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3.)

Coordination:

A. Jaseliuniene, A.
Raubaitė,
D. Papaioannou



4. Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8.)

Coordination:

C. Haerlin, T.
Vercauteren,
G. Georgiou

World Café & SFE CE FEC Working Groups

In the afternoon workshops, the participants remained in the same groups and worked on topics from the WGs of SFE CE FEC. The 4 WGs were:

1. WG1: Refugees and Migrants

Coordination:

F. Kresimon,
D. Murawa,
V. Chronopoulos



2. WG2: International Cooperation

Coordination:

A. Birsan,
M. Danova,
A. Yantselidou

3. WG3: Support for Employment through Apprenticeships - Project SEPAL PRO

Coordination:

V. Gafiuc,
A. Jaseliuniene,
C. Makliri



4. WG4: Green Economy

Coordination:

C. Haerlin,
T. Vercauteren,
G. Georgiou

Conclusions of the workshops

1. Zero Poverty (SDG 1.) & WG1 Refugees and Migrants

From the morning session, after a short presentation about the connection between SDG 1/ No Poverty, Migration and Social Enterprises – in specific Work Integration Enterprises - and a short overview about the actual numbers of Migrants and Refugees in Europe, three points have been collected during the brainstorming phase by the 3 sub working groups:

- a.** Need to develop a cultural ambient, able to include diversity: access to education and training as an essential requirement.
- b.** Social Enterprises: inclusion in the job is possible. Social Enterprises can play an important role.
- c.** Policies and legal frame works are needed to support SE's & for Migrants and Refugees in order to access to opportunities.

Afternoon: 3 working groups have been created: topics and outcomes Working Group Policies:

Through a collaboration between EU/Networks and Municipalities enhance:

- Public procurement: contracts for specific target groups
- Improve access to (regular) business funding
- Improve use of state aid, especially as an, investment" into the future

Conclusions of the workshops

Working Group Training and education:

The working group developed a first draft for the Construction of Education Centers for Migrants in several EU countries:
For the integration process:

- Networking (experts in psychology, teachers, social workers...)
- Focus on post-traumatic recovery, language, cultural knowledge
- Workshops (CV, job search, interviews)
- Support groups for women

Supporting Networks:

- Lawyers (docs, paper work)
- Local authorities
- Housing
- Health care
- Universities (professors as volunteers, access....)

Sponsorship:

- Finance
- State budget
- Donations
- Sponsorships
- European Commission

Marketing:

- Social Media (Website, Facebook, twitter, Instagram...)
- Advocacy

Conclusions of the workshops

Entrepreneurial approaches: art workshops selling products (painting, ceramics, jewelry ... etc.); certification and coffee shop
Working group Social enterprises development

The idea developed consists in the creation of a digital platform, implemented for each country and accessible to workers and migrants:

Knowledge about the situation of Social Enterprises

Knowledge about the labor market and job placement

Specific related knowledge necessary for migrants to enter the labor market

2. Zero Hunger (SDG 2.) & WG2 International Cooperation

Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda represents an extraordinary commitment to defeat hunger world-wide through a sustainable and integrated approach. The fight against hunger requires concrete actions, effective policies, and collective awareness of our impact on the planet. Only through sustained commitment, collaboration, and the willingness to embrace significant changes can we achieve a future where hunger is a mere memory of the past, and where every individual has access to nutritious, safe, and abundant food.

3. Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3.) & Support for Employment through Apprenticeships - Project SEPAL PRO

Lack of personnel / access to medical services

Need for equality in mental sector

Policies have no indicators to measure performance

Labor opportunities are not available to everyone

Youngsters are not motivated to remain in rural areas

The youth feel they are not listened and they do not have a voice

The opportunity of travelling and learning is excellent today, but the issue remains how it will be valorized at local level.

Conclusions of the workshops

4. Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8.) & WG4: Green Economy

27 participants from 6 countries

SFE CEFEC with the definition of social firms fulfills the aims: respect, good salary, good work conditions, self-development

The participants asked CEFEC to:

Push EU more to see the green legislation, support and lobbying

Give more info, sharing, training, exchange best practice beyond WG7

See necessary change as positive step within social firms

Make the next SFE CEFEC Conference greener (services, materials)

Create and hire more green CO2 experts

The afternoon session continued with a presentation of Dr. Athina Fragkouli Sakellaropoulou with the topic "Connections and sequences as a source of creativity for SFE CEFEC's future activities".

In her words:

The big challenge of this year's SFE CEFEC 37th Conference was:

- *The bridging of the past-present-future of the existence and function of CEFEC, represented by some of the veterans, Christiane Haerlin, Erwin Seyfried, Meto Salijevic.*
- *The understanding of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the environmental crisis and the need to work on them in our daily individual and work life.*
- *The working through by exchanging ideas, plans, strategic decisions on projects in the local social economy field.*

These three main aspects should be worked continuously in the framework of linking the wisdom and experience of the old generation with the present business people and with the spirit and enthusiasm of the young generation to work for the co-creation of innovation.



Afternoon presentations



Mrs. Athanasia Psalti, head of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Fokida, continued with the topic "Museums, sustainability and quality of life: The case of Delphi."

Mrs. Psalti referred to the cultural and social value of the museum and the archaeological site of Delphi. The museum of Delphi also acts as a lever of progress for local communities in the context of sustainable development (protection of biodiversity and the effects of the climate crisis) since it is also the center of protection of the largest archaeological park in Europe, the famous Delphic landscape of 350,000 acres which is protected by UNESCO. In addition, both the museum and the archaeological site play a major role for the economic development in the area. The Archaeological Museum of Delphi operates as an open public space in which all arts are promoted through which ideals such as equality, freedom of speech and thought, solidarity, democracy, religious tolerance are served, and where all communities are treated inclusively regardless of social situation, gender, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.



2nd day of the 37th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference

8 September 2023

The day started with a presentation by the project coordinator Chris Makliri about the 3rd edition of SFE CEFEC Academy, which took place in the same location during the period 4-8 September 2023.

He presented to the audience the workshops of the first 3 days and the main purpose of the event, which was the connection with local production, environmental aspects, crafts and Social Entrepreneurship in rural areas.

The 1st day of the Academy (4 September 2023) the youngsters learned about the honey production, the process and the value of the bees. The 2nd day (5 September 2023), they were introduced to the olive trees and the collection procedure of the olives. Also, they learned about the environmental and socioeconomic value of the olive grove of Amfissa. The 3rd day (6 September 2023), the youngsters had the opportunity to participate in pottery and tanning workshops, where they created items with clay and learned about the history of leather workshops in Amfissa.



2nd day of the 37th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference

Then, the award ceremony for the participants of the 3rd edition of SFE CE FEC Academy took place, which meant the official closure of this event. NEETS had the opportunity to talk about their impressions and what they gained during the week. The ceremony conducted by three of the founding members of SFE CE FEC, Mrs. Athina Fragkouli, Mrs. Christiane Haerlin and Mr. Meto Salijevic.



The 2nd day of the conference continued with the SFE CE FEC Annual Award Ceremony, presented by Alina Birsan, head of Secretariat of SFE CE FEC.



2nd day of the 37th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference

From the 7 applications received this year, the SFE CE FEC Award Committee had the difficult job to choose just 3 winners for the 2023 Social Firms Europe CE FEC Award:

1

Award for best Start Up went to ROUA Association - Together for Ukraine (Romania) ROUA Info HUB. They aim to overcome the situation of vulnerability of refugees from Ukraine requesting the right to stay in Suceava County (Romania) and empower the refugees to find their own path. The association offers resources, tools and guidance to help refugees regain control over their lives and actively participate in their own integration process.

2.

Awards for Best Practices social enterprises went to:



1

Social Cooperative RESTART (Poland) Pub Spółdzielczy Łódź. "A beer that brews more" – create change for people with mental health problems. The idea grew from the need of change and the passion of people who created Pub Spoldzielczy. "We wanted to change the image of people mentally disabled in the society and we wanted to create workplaces for people with mental disabilities that are far from the standard imagination of disabled workplace"

1

Social Cooperative of Limited Liability "Nautilus" (Greece). "Our vision is all people that are out-cast due to their psychological illnesses, to have jobs and social opportunities. Our economic success has come from creating a cleaning crew that cleans various public organizations. Our plan is to develop more the photocopy shop, because we believe it could lead to something very unique".



2nd day of the 37th SFE CEFEK Annual Conference

The next topic of the day was "Discussing and Empowering Community with the Community", which was coordinated by the deputy governor of the region of Fokida Mr. Georgios Delmouzos and two experts of the Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos Mr. Asimakis Bafatakis, who is also the chairperson of the KoiSPE of Fokida "Giannis Volikas" and Mrs. Ioanna Kallia, psychologist.



The discussion highlighted issues and problems of the local community as well as ways to solve them. The contribution of Social Economy to the development and sustainability of the local community was also highlighted.

After the lunch break, we had the handover of the presidency of SFE CEFEK from Greece to Portugal, as the 38th Conference of SFE CEFEK will take place in Lisbon in September 2024. The host organization will be ARIA – Associação de Reabilitação e Integração Ajuda.



2nd day of the 37th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference

In the 2nd day of the Conference, 118 Delegates and Experts from 17 EU Member countries have approved a resolution and request to the European Commission to bring forth an ACTION PLAN for Job inclusion of migrants, refugees, disabled and disadvantaged people into the Job Market in Europe.

It will be disseminated to our networks and be presented in the European Parliament.



CE FEC RESOLUTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The 37th Annual CE FEC Conference in Itea, Greece

from 6th - 8th September 2023 on

“Acting for Social Economy and Empowering the Community “

the 118 Delegates and Experts from 17 EU Member countries are sending a resolution and request to the European Commission to bring forth an ACTION PLAN for Job inclusion of migrants, refugees, disabled and disadvantaged people into the Job Market in Europe

In recent years we have witnessed the loss of lives of our fellow human beings who seek a way out in Europe from the horrors of war, poverty, hardship and misery. Unfortunately, within the European Union there are countervailing forces that are delaying a comprehensive approach to the migration issue, which has been an issue for centuries. As a result, international law is in some cases violated and humanitarian values are devalued. The consequences of a policy of exclusion are obvious today in people's life and psyche and will continue and be passed on to future generations.

The countries of the south, where Europe's external borders are located, are often burdened with managing migration, meeting the detachment of several countries in the rest of Europe. Many of them refuse to participate in a fair distribution of migrants, erecting walls and preventing a proper European management of migration.

The European Union should commit itself with a specific political and economic framework, first and foremost to strengthen the countries receiving immigrants and, at the same time, developing a plan for the distribution of migrants, according to the existing capacities of each state.

Therefore the "European solidarity" urgently needs to be implemented and put into practice by all European countries.

All the more, in times of crisis and war, communities which are still trying hard to overcome the effects of the pandemic, are under enormous stress to welcome vulnerable groups, such as migrants, war-traumatized families and persons with mental health and other disabilities.

2nd day of the 37th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference



PAN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

On the local as well as regional level it is necessary to develop a solidarity network of individuals, institutions, organizations, economical agents, social enterprises and media to build up a PAN-EUROPEAN BASIS by actions, announcements, conferences and dynamic mobilizations, to implement a new solidarity mechanism and support to help to access health, education and work services for all people living in the European Union.

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY TO REACH JOB INCLUSION

SFE CEFEC and other befriended organizations have built up successful models all over Europe during more than four decades, creating **social firms and social enterprises on the level of local communities** and thus demonstrating and supporting a growing capacity of job inclusion for vulnerable people: disabled, those with mental health and other disease, refugees and migrants, often being traumatized and living in poverty. Recently the growing target group of youngsters, so called NEETs who missed out on schooling, vocational training and work, hopefully is getting special attention. There is a good deal of innovation and creativity and social workers, trainers and coaches help these groups entering the job market.

SFE CEFEC'S EXPERTISE OF GREEN ECONOMY SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

In recent years, a growing number of special Social Firms and Social Enterprises have emerged to act as lighthouses and play an important role in achieving climate goals by creating jobs and internships in the green economy sector. The experience gained in this area will be a focal point in the coming years, and the corresponding measures for know-how transfer have started, especially within the target group of the young generation of disabled, disadvantaged, migrants and refugees.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES CONTRIBUTE TO MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

With these measures in place, being able to offer decent work and sustainable structures, social enterprises can provide a great help to both, the well-being of individuals and the local economy and social welfare of a community. Also the early inclusion of individuals in first employment relationships and internships foster a sense of relief and belonging to society.

Therefore the EU and its member countries are challenged by CEFEC with its experience of Social Firms and Enterprises to focus on and secure their current funding policy and to enable expansion in line with the great integration demand of the named vulnerable groups of people.

With this Resolution the Delegates and Experts of the CEFEC Conference are sending a strong request to the European Commission to help the PAN EUROPEAN BASIS to implement an ACTION PLAN: Empowering

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2nd day of the 37th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference



"a network for your social economy vision"

the communities all over Europe to support social firms and social enterprises as stepping stones for job inclusion.

The entire network of Social Firms Europe CE FEC with 74 members from 28 countries and the social economy actors in Europe are called to support the initiative as a sign of solidarity and respect in Europe.

Signed by SFE CE FEC President Mrs. Athina Frangkouli Sakellaropoulos &

SFE CE FEC General Secretary Mrs. Felicitas Kresimon

And the list of members present in Itea/Greece

A. Frangkouli

Felicitas Kresimon



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37th SFE CE FEC General Assembly

The 37th SFE CE FEC Conference closed with the General Assembly.



In the afternoon, the participants had the opportunity to visit the archaeological site of Delphi and the premises of the Social Cooperative of Limited Liability of Fokida KoiSPE "G.Volikas" including the field which is use for permaculture and the shop with organic products in the city of Amfissa.



We are looking forward to meeting you in Portugal next year!

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* Report done by Chris Makliri
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