

# Newsletter #33



## REPORTS - 2023 SFE CE FEC CONFERENCE & ACADEMY

The **Report of the 37th Annual Conference** is available and it was developed by the [SFE CE FEC](#) member and organizer of this very special event the Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos. The 2023 Conference was organized in Itea, Fokida/**Greece**, between **6-8 September**, under the title “Acting for Social Economy. Empowering the Community”, with the participation of **over 120 people from 17 different countries**.

The **Report is also available** on our [website](#) and contains interesting information about the 6 presentations in the plenary session, 4 international World Cafes & 4 international CE FEC Working Groups, open discussions with representatives of local authorities, Award Ceremonies and Annual General Assembly.

SFE CE FEC Academy - 3rd Edition | 4-8 September 2023 | Itea, Fokida, Greece

## Report

Social Firms Europe  
CE FEC

### SFE CE FEC ACADEMY 2023



3rd Edition

“Creating Employment  
Opportunities in Rural Areas”



## Newsletter Highlights

Reports - 2023 SFE CE FEC  
Conference & Academy

SFE CE FEC  
Resolution

Networking &  
Projects

New member  
organizations

News from our  
member in Poland

BAG IF - Impact study  
“MehrWirkung”

News from our  
member in Bulgaria

2024 Agenda

SFE CE FEC Podcast

The Report of the **3rd SFE CE FEC Academy event** was also developed by the organizer of this year's edition the Society of **Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos**. The 2023 CE FEC Academy was organized in Itea, Fokida/Greece, between **4-8 September**, under the title “Creating Employment Opportunities in Rural Areas”, with the participation of more than **25 people from 7 countries**.

The Report contains **information about** the concept, the programme of the **5 days**, conclusions and feedback from the young participants:

*I believe it is important to teach young adults about their possible career choices, one of them being creating and managing a social enterprise. Nothing comes to mind in terms of finding a negative aspect of the Academy, in my opinion, it was perfect. (Z. A., from Lithuania)*

You can **download the document** from our [website!](#)

# SFE CEFEC RESOLUTION



***During the 37th SFE CEFEC Annual Conference - “Acting for Social Economy. Empowering the Community” which took place in Itea/Greece, delegates from 17 EU member countries issued a resolution “CEFEC RESOLUTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS”.***

***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!***

***The text of the Resolution can be downloaded from [HERE!](#)***

# PSYCHIATRIC REFORM IN GREECE AND THE ROLE OF THE SOCIETY OF SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY P. SAKELLAROPOULOS



**Psychiatric reform in Greece** has gone through various stages and developments since the 60s. It is important to note that this course was influenced by social, political and economic events. In the early 60s, psychiatric care in Greece was mainly based on psychiatric hospitals. However, conditions in these hospitals were unsatisfactory, and the humane living conditions of individuals with psychiatric problems were often appalling. **Professor Panagiotis Sakellaropoulos**, returning from his studies in France, played a decisive role in initiating and implementing psychiatric reform in Greece. He started with the founding of "Theotokos", worked in the University Psychiatric Hospital "Aeginitio" and during the dictatorship founded PSYPSA (psychiatric care at the patient's home by mobile units composed of young professionals and students)

During the junta period (**1967-1973**) all the reform effort that had begun was overturned. Even in the years following the dictatorship, the hallmark was asylum psychiatry. During the transition to democracy, the ground for reform is being prepared, starting from the periphery and specifically from Fokida with the establishment of the Mobile Mental Health Unit, in 1981. In **1984** the 1st residential unit (hostel) was founded in the Prefecture of Fokida. In 1985, P. Sakellaropoulos as a professor at the University of Thrace, created the system of mental health services network, which includes the psychiatric clinic within the general hospital. He also proceeds with the creation of the Mental Health Center for children and adults and the **Mobile Mental Health Unit** of the Prefectures of Evros-Rodopi.

From 1986 until today, EKPS P. Sakellaropoulos is an **official provider of mental health services**, within the framework of the National Plan for Mental Health "Psychargos" of the Ministry of Health. In the 90s, on the occasion of the outbreak of the Leros scandal, **deinstitutionalization begins** and Professor P. Sakellaropoulos with his associates, finds incarcerated patients in mental hospitals originating from the Prefecture of Fokida, in order to return them to their homes. At the same time, the practices of Community Psycho-Education are strengthened, in order to inform the local population about what mental illness is and that the mentally ill should be part of the community, and their treatment should take place within the community and not in mental hospitals-asylums. At the same time, the Directorate of Mental Health has been established by the Ministry of Health and the creation of Law 2716/1999 for the upgrading of mental health services and the institutionalization of Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability KoiSPE. **The creation of the Mental Health Units in Attica and Fthiotida** was the culmination of the services of the SSP P. Sakellaropoulos.

In the identity of our Organization, the **3 main axes of our operation are formulated:**

## **I. OUR MISSION**

The Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos offers mental health services to those who need them. At the same time, it works with the population in order to establish the request for help.

## **II. OUR VISION**

We work systematically for every person to have access to free quality mental health services and to be able to attain the highest possible level of mental health and wellbeing, in an open society.

## **III. OUR VALUES**

- High quality mental health services accessible to everyone, free of charge.
- Equality and respect of human rights.
- Solidarity towards every vulnerable group.
- Transparency, accountability, ethics, trust in our relationship with our service users and associates.

*Information presented during the SFE CEFEC Executive Committee from 6 September 2023 (Amfissa/Greece) by Mrs. Athina Fragkouli, President of the Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos*

# Networking & Projects

## MILMET PROJECT

The 5th face-to-face Transnational Project Meeting within the Milmet Project, from **19-21 of September 2023**, in Tenerife, Spain, was hosted and organised by Precious Plastic.

Our SFE CEFEC members Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale and Bucovina Institute have participated in this meeting which featured discussions on project's progress.



## YOPEVA ENTREPRENEUR PROJECT

On Thursday, **2 November**, we were invited to participate at the Yopeva Entrepreneur multiplier event, organized in Suceava, by our Social Firms Europe CEFEC member Asociatia ACDC Romania.

The project Manager at Fundesplai, provided valuable information about the YoPeVa Entrepreneur core programme and its impact on young people. Pedro Gallo, PhD from the University of Barcelona, presented effective ways to use and apply YoPeVa Entrepreneur training courses.

Also, the participants actively participated in the **panel discussion**, providing valuable insights and exchanging ideas with experts such as Carmen Podani, Lena Liljeström, Francisco Loras, Giorgia Marinelli, Nynke de Jager, Juliana Viegas and Lene Borvik.

Another interesting point on the Agenda was the *Local and Regional Practices and Policies to Support Youth Entrepreneurship*, where the invited experts discussed about the practices and policies to support youth entrepreneurship at local and regional level.



# Networking & Projects

## SEPAL PROJECT IN BRUSSELS: PRIORITIES FOR YOUTH NEETS IN EUROPE



The **SEPAL Conference**, marking a significant milestone in supporting youth NEETs in Europe, successfully took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on November 6, 2023, organized by the Bucovina Institute for Social Partnership Association. Under the auspices of the European Year of Skills 2023, the event brought together experts, European decision-makers, and representatives of partner organisations within the SEPAL project, hosted by MEP Dragoş Pişlaru, also President of the Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion Committee of the European Commission.

The event held at the **European Parliament** served as a focal point for discussions centred on supporting youth NEETs and their integration into the labour market. It not only united voices from various fields but also acted as a catalyst for concrete changes. Special attention was given to the development and validation of skills, as well as the need for workplace learning programs through paid internships and apprenticeships, reinforcing the commitment to building a society that promotes not only equal opportunities but also appropriate support for every community member.

The SEPAL Conference brought together **over 50 participants from 28 organizations** and institutions from countries such as Romania, Spain, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Latvia, Norway, Belgium, and Italy. Among the participants were representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission. The event saw the presence of experts in education, vocational training, social enterprises, and youth employment, creating a conducive framework for the exchange of experiences and the development of innovative strategies.

**Felicitas Kresimon**, General Secretary of Social Firms Europe CEFEC, **presented the resolution** signed at the 37th Annual Social Firms Europe CEFEC Conference by delegates from 17 EU member countries, including the SEPAL consortium, addressed to the European Commission. This resolution calls for the creation of an Action Plan to facilitate the socio-professional inclusion of marginalized groups, such as youth NEETs, migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups in the EU labour market.

# Networking & Projects



The conference conveyed a strong message from the President of the Bucovina Institute for Social Partnership Association – Lead Partner of the SEPAL Project, Mr. Petru-Vasile Gafiuc, **advocating for a solidary Europe and universal access to workplace learning opportunities for youth NEETs.**

The SEPAL project, spanning five years, stands as a poignant example of effective collaboration among five European organisations from Romania, Spain, Lithuania, Greece, and Poland. **The obtained results include:**

- **2,706 youth NEETs registered** on the SEPAL platform.
- 870 youth NEETs receiving employment support services, with 464 accessing apprenticeships and learning on the job stages and 259 successfully securing employment.
- **5 WISE experts** playing a significant role in supporting and guiding youth NEETs, making significant contributions to their personal and professional development.
- **30 mentors/coaches** trained in three 5-day sessions in Poland, Spain, and Romania, strengthening the support network for youth NEETs.
- Over 50 local, regional, and national organizations and institutions from the five partner countries forming **Local Stakeholders Committees**, providing extensive support in their respective communities.
- The SEPAL platform designed to facilitate access for youth NEETs and specialists to useful services and resources.
- **Resources** such as the Evaluation Book, Apprenticeship Book, SEPAL White Book, SEPAL Coalition, Work-based Training Book, and Innovation Book developed to share best practices and support youth NEETs.
- Three **academies for youth NEETs** in collaboration with Social Firms Europe CEFEC in Romania, Lithuania, and Greece, highlighting the importance of social entrepreneurship in their development.
- **Certification of approximately 300 NEETs** in courses dedicated to improving digital and entrepreneurial skills.
- The use of virtual reality (VR) in providing employment support services, offering youth NEETs a realistic and practical experience in various fields.
- 10 youth NEETs receiving support to develop their own businesses, accessing funding opportunities from the European Social Fund (ESF).
- Creation of synergies between 25 projects funded by the EEA and Norwegian Grants Youth Employment Program and the exchange of best practices, organizing 10 online events and 3 face-to-face meetings under the series "**Let's NEET together!**".

These results demonstrate the commitment and positive impact of the project in transforming the lives of these young people, creating new opportunities and perspectives in today's society.

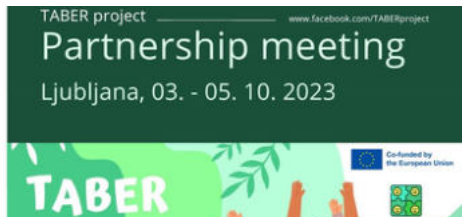
*Article written by Alina Gafița (Adomnicăi), Communication Manager SEPAL Project*

# Networking & Projects

## TABER ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Being facilitated by the Erasmus+ project TABER, our CE FEC members from Italy (Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale), Lithuania (ZISPB) and Romania (Bucovina Institute) embarked, at the beginning of **October 2023**, on an inspiring journey to Ljubljana, Slovenia, hosted by the Slovenian partners from Šentprima.

One of the stops? The central hub of youthful energy, the "Young Dragons Center," nestled in the heart of Ljubljana. Another **study visit** Rakitna Youth Climate Spa unveiled a range of comprehensive health programs tailored to the unique needs of children and adolescents. During the last day Youth Climate Spa, where they were presented a very interesting program for young people: School for Healthy Growing, Digital Detox, Program for integration and rehabilitation of young people.



## 21ST EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES IN BRUSSELS

From **9-12 October**, took place the 21st European Week of Regions and Cities at Brussels. An annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance.

Through our General Secretary, CE FEC participated in some events and took the chance to exchange about important opportunities as for example #ErasmusEntrepreneurs for young people interested to increase their entrepreneurial competences.



# Networking & Projects

## DIGI-LANCE4SE ERASMUS+ PROJECT



In the period **26-29 September 2023**, the Social Firms Europe CE FEC members from Digi-Lance4SE have participated at the 1st training of the project, organized in Žalec/Slovenia, by UPI - Ijudska univerza Žalec.

Thanks to the project, they also had the great opportunity to visit another of our CE FEC members from Slovenia, Center Ponovne Uporabe.

During the 3rd day of the training, **Mrs. Marinka Vovk**, social entrepreneur, Executive Committee member of CE FEC & expert of the WG7-Green Economy, presented some key points of the social economy in Slovenia, some interesting solutions for the housing problem using shipping containers, all of this integrated into the idea of social economy.





# Networking & Projects

## FAVET ERASMUS+ PROJECT



In the period **30 November - 1 December 2023**, the Social Firms Europe CE FEC members from Spain (Dom Spain) and Romania (Bucovina Institute) from have participated at meeting of the European Partners of the FaVET Project, hosted by our CE FEC member from France, IFPRA.

On the agenda: in-depth discussions on project progress and finalization, the launch of the results dissemination phase, and the implementation of the project evaluation. Stay tuned, as project tools and results will soon be accessible on the project website <https://favet.eu/>

## PACT FOR SKILLS

Social Firms Europe CE FEC has joined the [#PactForSkills](https://pactforskills.eu/), an initiative by the European Commission to develop Europe 's workforce!

Under the Pact, public and private organisations can join forces and take concrete action to support recovery and the green and digital transitions.

The **Pact for Skills** promotes joint action to maximise the impact of investing in upskilling and reskilling. It calls on national, regional and local authorities; companies; social partners; cross-industry and sectoral organisations; chambers of commerce; education and training providers; and employment services to work together and make a clear commitment to invest in training for all people of working age in the EU.



# NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

## THREE THIRDS SOCIETY NPO



*3/3 SOCIETY, from Greece, has been dynamically active since 2012 in the social economy sector with an emphasis on social entrepreneurship. It has pioneered the creation of innovative social enterprises (KOIN.S.E.P.) throughout Greece, has participated in many national and European programs and has organized dozens of informative events to promote the social economy. The organization is a member of Panhellenic Association of Social Economy Partnerships and one of the main co-organizers of the "Civil Society Open Conference on the Social Economy". Website: <https://www.3ts.gr/en/>*

## ASSOCIATION RESOURCE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOCIAL ECONOMY NORTH-WEST

*The Association from Romania was developed by 20 social enterprises (coffee shop, spa center, coffee roastery, eco cleaning company, dental office etc.) which were established through an ESF project, with the following objective: to support the establishment and operation of new social enterprises, located in both urban and rural areas in the North West Development Region of Romania, on the basis of grants to individuals who wished to set up social enterprises, who participated in social entrepreneurship training programmes and a business plan competition.*



## EMPHASYS CENTER



*Emphasys Center from Cyprus is an organisation that carries out vocational training for people with mental health problems, other disabilities or disadvantages. The organization is an Education, ICT Training, Research and Software Development Centre in Cyprus approved by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth which was established in 1998. They offer a wide range of validated professional development courses, as well as upskilling/re-skilling courses for all learners related to the integration of emerging technologies in Education and VET Training, the promotion of green transition (sustainable development, climate change), social inclusion (disabilities, seniors, migrants). Website: <https://emphasyscentre.com/>*

## Impact study "MehrWirkung": The new study by our member BAG IF from Germany underlines the impact of inclusive enterprises

Our member BAG Inklusionsfirmen (bag if) from Germany has recently published the study "MehrWirkung" (**MoreImpact**). The study is the first to provide robust evidence of the added social value of inclusive enterprises in Germany. The research framework for the study was set by the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The study proves that inclusive enterprises contribute to at least 7 SDGs and contribute to decent work, meaningful customer relationships and an inclusive and sustainable society. The study is also available in English and you can find it here:

- [Results](#)
- [Summary](#)
- [Methodology](#)

*Information provided by Mr. Klaus Meyer zu Brickwedde, bag if*



Szczecin  
Cukrowa 8 (US)20-21.09  
2023

# KONFERENCJA EKONOMIA SPOŁECZNA

oraz jej wpływ na zrównoważony rozwój Pomorza Zachodniego

ORGANIZATORZY:



PATRONATY HONOROWE:



PATRONAT MEDIALNY:

**SZ OWES**Sieć Zachodniopomorska Ośrodków  
Wsparcia Ekonomii Społecznej

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER IN POLAND

On September 20-21, 2023, a conference was held in Szczecin entitled "SOCIAL ECONOMY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN POMERANIA" organized by the Network of West Pomeranian Social Economy Support Centers. The key idea of the Conference was to stimulate the initiative to build a climate of cooperation between the government, local government, business and science environments - for the sustainable development of Western Pomerania. The event was also an inspiration for new initiatives related to effective counteracting social exclusion and deepening good relations between local government units and social economy entities.

Anna Łukomska - Dziejdzic, Content Coordinator of SZOWES

The conference was an excellent opportunity to learn about good practices, exchange experiences and establish valuable contacts. The program featured, among others, topics such as: WHERE IS SOCIAL ECONOMY IN WESTERN POMERANIA AND WHERE IS IT GOING - the perspective of the government, local government, science and business; PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR COOPERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES; PRESENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL ECONOMY - examples from Poland and abroad. During the conference, the accompanying events included the **Social Economy Fair**, a competition for social economy entities for the most attractive stand at the Fair, and VR films on social entrepreneurship prepared as part of the SEPAL project.

The speakers included representatives of the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy - Department of the European Social Fund, the Provincial Labor Office, the Regional Center for Social Policy of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, the Polish Economic Society, Provincial Branch in Szczecin and representatives of local governments. Participants also learned about good foreign practices, such as **Dom Spain SLU** (Reus, Spain), **Asociația Institutul Bucovina** with the SEPAL project (Suceava, Romania) and the European network SFE CEFEC, presented through a short video speech held by the **CEFEC General Secretary Felicitas Kresimon**.

The event gathered approximately **150 participants** - representatives of district labor offices, social welfare centers), enterprises including social enterprises, local action groups, non-governmental organizations, the science sector and specialists in the field of social economy from the West Pomeranian Voivodeship as well as experts from the Wielkopolska and Pomeranian Voivodeships. The conference was organized as part of the "SZOWES - OWES in the Szczecin region" project. Project activities are co-financed from ESF funds under the Regional Operational Program of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship for 2014-2020.





Снимка: bTVnovinite.bg

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER IN BULGARIA

On 14 October 2023, one of the leading national TV channels bTV broadcasted a report entitled 'Imagine....', which presented the activities of Maria's World Foundation ([www.mariasworld.org](http://www.mariasworld.org)) as a social enterprise that provides realization opportunities for young people with intellectual disabilities.

The report was dedicated to the employment of people with intellectual disabilities and mental disorders. The topic was provoked by the prevailing negative attitudes and stereotypes against these two groups of people, which hinder their employment in the labour market.

Maria's World Foundation offered two young people to join. One is **Pavel**, 42, who has only been involved in work activities for two years and who is about to start his first paid job in a municipal structure for the provision of meals to infants and young children. Pavel said in the report that this would be his first job. He says that meeting people has changed his life: 'I've evolved. I'm not the person I was 2 years ago or 5 years ago. I think I'm at a better level. I used to be more introvert, now I'm more open, let's say. I like that I'm interacting with people.' **Kalin** also joined the report and told that he first started working in the social catering enterprise of the foundation and later with the acquired skills he became a kitchen worker in a boutique restaurant in the centre of Sofia. In the reportage, Kalin said that people with intellectual disabilities are the same as other people and should be given a chance.

The Director of **Maria's World Foundation**, Ms. Miryana Siriyski, raised the issue that the employment promotion measures for people with disabilities do not adequately support people with intellectual disabilities. In this plan, employers do not have any incentives to hire staff from this group of people. Another serious problem is the absence of statistics. All programs and measures are implemented in general for people with disabilities, there is no tracking of how many of those participating in government programs are people with intellectual disabilities or mental disorders.

The report was also joined by **Ms. Felicitas Kresimon** from CEFEC, who presented the Italian experience in which employment of people with mental health problems is one of the pillars of mental health care and prevention of social exclusion. The whole concept is based on the idea of work that is tailored to the individual specific characteristics of the person, she said. Felicitas Kresimon said in the report that to date there are more than 20,000 social enterprises in Italy. A special database is also maintained for people with more than 45% reduced working capacity, which describes their skills and experience. And according to local laws, employers are obliged to employ a certain number of people with special needs according to the number of employees.

We hope that this report will contribute to improving policies for the employment of people with intellectual disabilities!

The Report in Bulgarian language is available [HERE](#).

Information provided by Mrs. Miryana Malamin-Siriyski, Director of Maria's World Foundation

# 2024 AGENDA



The 38th SFE CEFEC Conference will be organized in Lisbon/Portugal, in the week 16-20 September 2024, in cooperation with ARIA organization.

## **MRS. CARLA SILVA, 2023-2024 SFE CEFEC PRESIDENT**

*Carla Silva has a master in agronomy and a degree in Rehabilitation. She is 52 years old, out of which 27 dedicated to the psychosocial rehabilitation of people with mental illness at ARIA – Associação de Reabilitação e Integração Ajuda. Carla is a treasurer of the ARIA Board since 2004. From 2013 to 2018 – Treasurer of the Board of FNERDM – National Federation of Entities for the Rehabilitation of Mental Illness. From 2012 to 2018 – Consultant at CCPUC- Advisory Committee for the Participation of Users and Caregivers of the General Directorate of Health. Since 2003 Representative of Portugal on the Executive Committee of Social Firms Europe CEFEC.*





During our Annual Conference in Itea/Greece, we managed to develop a series of podcasts **with several Social Firms Europe CEFEC members** and we already shared on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages 7 of them:

- » **Felicitas Kresimon**, SFE CEFEC General Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the board of DUEMILAUNO AGENZIA SOCIALE.
- » **René Keet**, Chair of the Eucoms Network & a special guest expert at the 3rd SFE CEFEC Academy event. He is a psychiatrist and also the Director of FIT-academy GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord from Netherlands.
- » **Christiane Haerlin**, Senior Consultant & founding member of SFE CEFEC, but also one of the Board delegates of the German CEFEC member BAG Inklusionsfirmen.
- » **Raymo Bucher** works as the Ecological Advisor for Oeko Service GmbH, a very active Social Firms Europe CEFEC member from Switzerland, especially in the WG7 - Green Economy.
- » **Asta Jaseliūnienė**, founder and director of VšĮ Žmogiškųjų išteklių stebėsenos ir plėtros biuras from Lithuania and, since 2019, a member of the Social Firms Europe CEFEC Executive Committee.
- » **Leif G. Wastfelt**, an active member of the Social Firms Europe CEFEC Executive Committee from #Rysseviken AB, located in Sweden.
- » **Jukka Lindberg**, an active member for almost 10 years of the Social Firms Europe CEFEC Executive Committee from #Vates Foundation, located in Finland.

Click on the **yellow button** to view & listen!



Social Firms Europe CEFEC Secretariat  
Contact person: Alina Bîrsan

+40 230 524128

socialfirmseurope@gmail.com

Zamcei Street, no 17, postal code  
720214, Suceava, Romania