

**Social Firm Europe**

**34<sup>TH</sup>**

**CEFEC**

ANNIVERSARY BROCHURE  
1987 – 2020



**Social Firms  
in Digital Economies**





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**Photos by:**

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.

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# FOREWORD

Social Firms Europe CEFEC 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 CEFEC 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 CEFEC for 30 crucial years, considering some of the main difficulties encountered during this period and the challenges faced by CEFEC 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 -CEFEC  
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 CE FEC,  
Good luck for our common future in Europe.

*Prof. Dr. Erwin Seyfried*

Founding President of CE FEC



# 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.

**Prof. Sakellaropoulos** was born in Athens Greece, in 1926. He attended the Medical School of the University of Athens, and received medical training in the faculty of Psychiatry, Child Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis in Paris, France for several years.

He was, among many other Associations, active member of The International Psychoanalytic Association, both in France and Greece. Moreover he was leading member of The Greek Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (1977).

Prof. Sakellaropoulos was elected Professor of Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry at the Democretian University of Thrace in 1985 and ever since he became a protagonist at the field of Greek Psychiatric Reform.

He was a Man of his Word, a gallant Tutor, an inspiring Leader, a caring Father.

He taught us Honor, Respect, Empathy for the disabled and the less privileged in life...  
He will, definitely be missed, Never forgotten...!!!

*(Text and photo from Mrs. Athina Fragkouli)*



**“Prof. Bob Grove, senior policy advisor of Mental Health Europe, honorary member of Social Firms Europe (CEFEC)”**

The European network CEFEC was started in 1987 in Berlin Germany, followed by conferences 1988 in Torino, Italy, and encouraged by the psychiatric reforms in Greece. Bob Grove was one of the leading advisors of the EU with a small group of European pioneers and mental health workers. Their concern was to exchange experience in the de-institutionalization process of the psychiatric hospitals in Europe. Their focus was, in connection with the re-socialization, to create work opportunities for psychiatric patients and ways to integrate them in the open market.

Bob Grove was the leading colleague to set down, discuss, work and clarify the framework for this development within CEFEC. With his longstanding experience in the UK, resettling patients in work he helped to find a definition of SOCIAL FIRMS, SOCIAL COOPERATIVES and SOCIAL ENTERPRISES which has since been accepted European wide. The regular reports and updates of the "Linz Appeal" are based on these guidelines.

*(Text and photo from Mrs. Christiane Haerlin)*



# 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 Salijevic

**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 Salijevic

**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 CEFEC Conference, Novo Mesto, Slovenia

**CEFEC 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 CEFEC 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.



*CEFEC 2005 president  
Igor Pavel  
Treasurer: Rainhold Scharf*

2006 19-th CEFEC Conference, Seville, Spain

**CEFEC 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 – Spania  
Igor Pavel – Slovachia  
(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 Scarf, 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](http://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>).



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 CEFEC 2011

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

### 2012 **25th Social Firms Europe Annual Conference Suceava, Romania, CEFEC 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 CEFEC 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 CEFEC 2012  
Petru Vasile Gafiuc*



*CEFEC 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 (PO.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

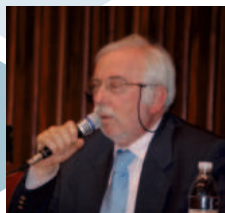
**Host:** Legacoopsociali in partnership with Arcobaleno social cooperative, ŠENT Slovenia, SEA and Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane

**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](mailto: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, CEFEC 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 CEFEC 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 CEFEC 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 CEFEC „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](http://www.29cefecconference.pl)

More information about the programme are available on [www.29cefecconference.pl](http://www.29cefecconference.pl)



*CEFEC 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](http://www.30cefecconference.at)



*CEFEC 2017 president  
Bernhard Kolouch*



*CEFEC Executive Committee March 2017*

2018

**31st Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CE FEC 2018 "Social Solutions By Social Entrepreneurs"**

**Period:** 12th-14th of September 2018

**President:** Leif G. Wästfelt

**Secretary:** Petru-Vasile Gafiuc

**Treasurer:** Dominik Murawa

**Host:** Rysseviken AB, Sweden in close cooperation with the Vates Foundation, from Finland

**Topics of CE FEC 2018:** The 31st Annual Conference for Social Firms Europe CE FEC took place on the luxury cruise ship Silja Symphony travelling from one country to another, leaving on 12th September from Stockholm, visiting Helsinki on 13th September and returning on 14th September.



*CE FEC Executive Committee, September 2018*



*CE FEC 2018 president  
Leif G. Wästfelt*

This event is organized by SFE CE FEC and Swedish Rysseviken AB with the Finnish Vates Foundation. The main objective of the conference was to present the current issues related with work integration and social inclusion of people in a vulnerable situation, referring to social inclusion by work as a great solution especially for those who have a history of substance abuse, who are homeless, who are immigrants in a new society, or who have mental health problems.

**Website:** [www.31cefecconference.eu](http://www.31cefecconference.eu)

2019 **33rd Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC 2019 “Innovation and social Enterprise: a tradeoff between market and individual needs”**

**Period:** 18th – 20th of June 2019

**President:** Felicitas Kresimon

**Secretary:** Petru-Vasile Gafiuc

**Treasurer:** Dominik Murawa

**Host:** DUEMILAUNO AGENZIA SOCIALE Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS  
in cooperation with: Legacoopsociali, Legacoop FVG, Mental Health

Department Trieste, Municipality of Trieste, University of Trieste and other local partners.



*CEFEC 2018 president  
Leif G. Wästfelt*

**Topics of CEFEC 2019:** The 33rd Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC took place in Trieste, Italy, between 18-20 of June 2019 and was part of the events ProESOF, Trieste European City of Sciences 2020.

The main themes addressed during the Conference referred to: the emergence and development of social economy and models of social enterprises as well as their potential for innovation in the context of political, economical and social transformation, with regard to challenges to move between market and individual needs and strategies.

**Website:** [www.33cefecconference.2001agsoc.it](http://www.33cefecconference.2001agsoc.it)



CEFEC Annual General Assembly, June 2019

2020

## **34th Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe CEFEC 2020 "Inclusion by employment"**

**Period:** 18th – 19th of March 2020

**President:** Christiane Haerlin

**Secretary:** Petru-Vasile Gafiuc

**Treasurer:** Dominik Murawa

**Host:** BAG Inklusionsfirmen (bag if)

**Topics of CEFEC 2020:** The 34th CEFEC Conference will take place in Dortmund (Germany), on 18-19 of March 2020, focusing on "Inclusion by Employment" in order to contribute to an inclusive European labour market. This year's attraction consists of a trade fair of socials firms, which will host approximatively one hundred social firms. More than that, we will discuss the success factors of inclusive employment and the benefits of cooperation in European networks for more inclusion in the labour market. Leadership in inclusive enterprises, training of people with disabilities and promising business concepts in the field of "Green & Social Business" are further topics that we will address in our workshops.



*CEFEC 2020 president  
Christiane Haerlin*



# Social Firms Europe CE FEC Executive Committee Members 2020



**Petru-Vasile Gafiuc**  
General Secretary CE FEC  
Bucovina Institute Suceava



**Chris Erick Hack**  
Pro Mente Austria



**Dominik Murawa**  
CE FEC Treasurer  
KLOS Poland



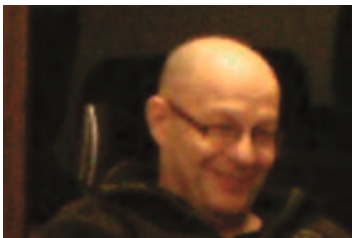
**Athina Fragkouli**  
Society of Social Psychiatry and  
Mental Health Greece



**Christiane Haerlin and Klaus Meyer**  
zu Brikwedde  
BAG Inklusionsfirmen e.V. 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



**Umberto Carrescia**  
Legacoopsociali Italy



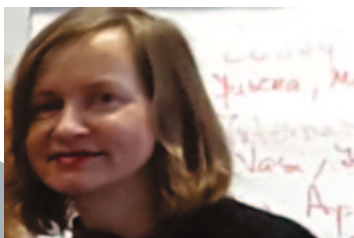
**Pavel Novak**  
FOKUS Czech Republic



**Marcelino Lopez**  
IDEA S.A. Spain



**Richard Mehmet**  
Community Wood Recycling UK



**Felicitas Kresimon**  
Legacoopsociali Italy



**Leif G. Wastfelt**  
Rysseviken Sweden



**Patricia Sundstrom**  
Rysseviken Sweden



**50**  
members

**21**  
countries

**20,000**  
employees

- AU** Pro Mente Austria - [www.promenteaustria.at](http://www.promenteaustria.at)  
Die Querdenker - [www.die-querdenker.at](http://www.die-querdenker.at)
- BE** Association Interregionale de Guidance de la Sante - [www.aigs.bl](http://www.aigs.bl)  
Mental Health Europe - [www.mhe-sme.org](http://www.mhe-sme.org)  
WEB - Work-experience Companies - [www.webwerkt.be](http://www.webwerkt.be)
- BG** European Development Foundation - [www.facebook.com/EUDevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/EUDevelopment)
- BiH** Foundation for Local Economic Development - [emina.abrahamsdotter@proffs.ba](mailto:emina.abrahamsdotter@proffs.ba)
- CZ** FOKUS - [www.fokus-praha.cz](http://www.fokus-praha.cz)
- FI** Finnish Central Association of Mental Health - [www.mtkl.fi](http://www.mtkl.fi)  
VATES Foundation - [www.vates.fi](http://www.vates.fi)  
Woodfox Oy Ltd - [www.woodfox.fi](http://www.woodfox.fi)
- FR** Association Piotr - Tchaadaev - [jean-yves.feberey@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jean-yves.feberey@wanadoo.fr)  
GIP-FCIP de Normandie - [www.ac-normandie.fr](http://www.ac-normandie.fr)
- DE** BAG Inklusionsfirmen e.V. - [www.bag-if.de](http://www.bag-if.de)  
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Diözesan-Caristasverband für das Erzbistum - [www.caritasnet.de](http://www.caritasnet.de)  
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Hand in Hand-Werk gGmbH - [www.hhw-soltau.de](http://www.hhw-soltau.de)
- EL** Society of Social Psychiatry - [www.ekpse.gr](http://www.ekpse.gr)
- IT** Legacoopsociali - [www.legacoopsociali.it](http://www.legacoopsociali.it)  
Lorenzo Toresini (medical doctor-psychiatrist) - [lorenzotoresini@libero.it](mailto:lorenzotoresini@libero.it)  
Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale - [www.2001agsoc.it](http://www.2001agsoc.it)  
CIRCLE - [www.circle-association.com](http://www.circle-association.com)  
CITTA AZZURRA - [www.cittazzurra.org](http://www.cittazzurra.org)  
Alberto Stenico - [www.albertostenico.it](http://www.albertostenico.it)
- JPN** Jinzaikyoikusha - [www.jk-s.co.jp](http://www.jk-s.co.jp)  
NPO S.S.S. - [www.npo-sss.or.jp](http://www.npo-sss.or.jp)
- LT** VSI Zmogiskuju istekliu stebesenos ir pletros biuras - [www.zispb.lt](http://www.zispb.lt)

**MD**AREAP - [www.areap.org](http://www.areap.org)**PL**KLOS Sp z o.o. - [www.klos.org.pl](http://www.klos.org.pl)Szczecińska Szkoła Wyższa Collegium Balticum - [www.cb.szczecin.pl](http://www.cb.szczecin.pl)Social Cooperative RESTART - [www.facebook.com/spoldzielczy.lodz](https://www.facebook.com/spoldzielczy.lodz)**PT**ARIA - [www.aria.com.pt](http://www.aria.com.pt)**MK**Association Community Development Institute Tetovo - [www.irz.org.mk](http://www.irz.org.mk)**RO**Institutul Bucovina - [www.bucovinainstitute.org](http://www.bucovinainstitute.org)AEDU - [www.asoc-edu.ro](http://www.asoc-edu.ro)Asociatia Consultantilor in Dezvoltare Comunitara (ACDC) - [www.acdcromania.ro](http://www.acdcromania.ro)**SE**Rysseviken AB - [www.ryseviken.se](http://www.ryseviken.se)Tanke & Handling I Sverige - [www.tankeochhandling.coop](http://www.tankeochhandling.coop)SKOOPI National Umbrella - [www.skoopi.coop](http://www.skoopi.coop)Globulen ideell forening - [www.landulla.com/globulen](http://www.landulla.com/globulen)**ES**Iniciativas de Empleo Andaluzas S.A. - [www.faisem.es](http://www.faisem.es)Fundació Privada Pere Closa - [www.fundaciopereclosa.org](http://www.fundaciopereclosa.org)**CHE**Oeko Service Ltd - [www.oeko-reinigungsservice.ch](http://www.oeko-reinigungsservice.ch)INSOS - [www.insos.ch](http://www.insos.ch)**UK**Community Wood Recycling - [www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk](http://www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk)Oxford Wood Recycling Ltd - [www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk](http://www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk)Devon Mind - [www.devonmind.com](http://www.devonmind.com)

2020







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**CEFEC**

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