

APRIL 2024

Newsletter #34



OPEN TO REGISTRATIONS - 2024 SFE CE FEC CONFERENCE & ACADEMY

We have the pleasure to invite you to our **38th SFE CE FEC Annual Conference**, which will be organized in **Lisbon, Portugal**, taking place during the period 18-20 September 2024, in collaboration with **ARIA – Associação de Reabilitação e Integração Ajuda**, under the title “*The Europe of Today: New Challenges, New Social Entrepreneurship Opportunities*”.

The 38th Annual Conference of SFE CE FEC aims at increasing the cooperation and networking for New Challenges, New Social Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Europe of today, with the sharing of experiences, presenting good practices of initiatives from Portugal and other European countries.

The **programme** of the 2024 Annual Conference includes the SFE CE FEC Executive committee meeting on 18 September and the General Assembly on 20 September.

For more details about the registration process and about the draft programme of the 2024 CE FEC Conference, please visit the **website of the event**: <https://cefecannualconference.eu/home>



Newsletter Highlights

Open to Registrations - 2024
SFE CE FEC Conference &
Academy

Networking &
Projects

New member
organizations

2024 CE FEC Award

SFE CE FEC Podcast

The **4th edition of the Social Firms Europe CE FEC Academy**, which will take place between **16-20 September 2024**, in Lisbon/Portugal, is open for registrations by using this google form: <https://forms.gle/FTQSSvCkyhhs9Ac7>, until 15 June 2024!

The **main topics** of the 4th edition of the SFE CE FEC Academy, for setting up and running a social enterprise are:

- The European dimension of the Social Enterprise
- Support services for inclusion - a possibility for a successful Social Enterprise
- From idea to the first draft of the business plan
- Start-up mechanisms of the social enterprises
- Zero waste & conservation

The organizers have the opportunity to reimburse the travel costs (up to 300 euro) for 10 participants in the training, which are in the **age group 18-29 years old**, with a very good motivation, good English skills and concrete future plans on how to put in practice the information he/she receives during these 5 days of SFE CE FEC Academy.

The accommodation and food will be covered by the participants in a **venue provided by the organizers** in the total amount of 530 euro/person: <https://impacttrip.com/impact-beach-house/>

Networking & Projects

SFE CEFEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 15 & 16 February we had the opportunity to meet more than 15 Social Firms Europe CEFEC Executive Committee members, in a hybrid format in Lisbon/Portugal, hosted by Aria Reabilitação, and online.

The main points of discussion were connected to:

- current activities of our network, cooperation among the members through projects, working groups
- the 2024 SFE CEFEC Conference & the 4th edition of the CEFEC Academy, taking place in the period 16-20 September 2024, in Lisbon/Portugal

The CEFEC members present in Lisbon had the opportunity to participate in some study visits at FAS (Socio-Occupational Forum) & Administrative and management services RTA - Residence for Autonomy Training Training Center: Gardening and the Restaurante Psicoprato.



E-LOCUM PROJECT

We are very happy to announce the start of a **new project where SFE CEFEC is involved as a partner**, together with our member from Romania (Bucovina Institute) & our partner network REVES: E-LoCUM - "Local Compacts of the United Mates of Europe". During the week between **16-17 January 2024** the project partners participated in the kick-off meeting, hosted by the lead partner of the Erasmus+ project VIVES - Consorzio di Cooperative Sociali. The activities took place in Pordenone/Italy, and included topics like:

- presentations of the partners
- understanding the general overview of the project and its activities
- discussing and planning of the project work packages
- interactive activities with the youngsters from Coop. Sociale FAI onlus HUB381 Viale Dante

The E-LoCUM project is co-funded by the **Erasmus+ Programme - Youth** and it gathers 6 organisations from Italy, Greece, Romania, Slovenia and Belgium.



Networking & Projects

MILMET PROJECT

The final meeting of the Milmet Project, hosted by our Social Firms Europe CEFEC members from France AFIDEL, Cocagne Haute Garonne, took place between 6-8 February 2024.

During this visit, the participants have visited the ETRE - School of Ecological Transition from Ibos which is led by the Eco-Habilis association, and trains 16-25 disadvantaged young people, including migrants, in soft skills and manual trades related to ecological transition, including eco-construction.

What do their activities consist of?

- Training for second-hand professions
- Collective projects, manual work, and practical training
- Personalized courses and guidance
- Professional networking opportunities



YOPEVA ENTREPRENEUR PROJECT

Our Social Firms Europe CEFEC members from ACDC Romania and Bucovina Institute have participated between 7 & 8 March 2024, in the Yopeva Entrepreneur meeting hosted by the new SFE CEFEC member from Spain Fundación Esplai.

It was a very effective meeting with discussions about different possibilities to extend our network in Spain, a country with a strong social economy sector.

Also, the Fundación Esplai representatives did a great job on introducing the Novaterra Foundation from Valencia which have an interesting concept for social entrepreneurship start-up.



Networking & Projects

EUCOMS NETWORK SEMINAR



On 14 & 15 March 2024, Social Firms Europe CEFEC participated in the Eucoms Network Seminar organized in Koln/Germany under the title "*Municipal Responsibility for Community Mental Health*".

Our General Secretary, Mrs. Felicitas Kresimon, together with the Development Manager, Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc, have visited during the 1st day of this event the **BTZ - Berufliches Trainingszentrum Köln** (Vocational Training Center). It was a very interesting visit coordinated by the SFE CEFEC Senior Consultant, Mrs. Christiane Haerlin, which has been working with BTZ from 1993 until 2005 and is still cooperating with them by giving seminars. Throughout the '70s, an urgent need for long neglected mental health and psychiatric patients to enter special rehabilitation programmes led to the establishment of the first BTZ of this kind in 1980 near Heidelberg. Now, in Germany more than 40 BTZ and a National Umbrella „BAG BTZ“ watch over quality standards. The aim is to guide the trainee from a patients to a workers role, supported by in-firm work and Job Placement to gain a respectable role in society.

Also, the SFE CEFEC General Secretary & the Development Manager presented 2 interesting topics, during the "*Empowering the Community to offer work as integral part of its psychosocial services*" session, moderated by our Senior Consultant, Mrs. Christiane Haerlin:

- "*Community based mental health settings and the important role of work inclusion by social economy actors*", by Mrs. Felicitas Kresimon
- "*Best practice example of work in local communities in various parts of Europe*", by Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc

This was a great opportunity to meet some of our CEFEC individual members:

- Mr. René Keet, the Chair of Eucoms Network, a psychiatrist and also the Director of FIT-academy GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord from Netherlands.
- Mr. Robert van Voren, the Chief Executive of the Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP from Vilnius/Lithuania. He also had an intervention together with Mrs. Olena Protsenko (Ukrainian Expert on Mental Health and Human rights), with the topic "Ukrainian social care home fights its way back into the community"
- Mr. Meto Salijevic, the leader of the Archive SFE CEFEC working group & the 1st General Secretary of our network.



Networking & Projects

TABER ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Being facilitated by the Erasmus+ project TABER, our CEFEC members from Italy (Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale), Lithuania (ZISPB) and Romania (Bucovina Institute) have met in the week from **31 January to 1 February**, in Fethiye, Turkey, during the 5th management meeting and training inside the Erasmus+ project TABER - Tackling Alexithimia to Build Emotional Resilience. Trainers and teachers from Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey, some of them members of CEFEC, had the opportunity to enrich their experience through absorbing the valuable workshops organized by the hosting country. In a next step, the workshops are piloted in each partner country. The final result will be a Best Practice Guide, which will be shared with all those who work with young people dealing with this issue!

Also within the #TABER project, during the last transnational meeting from Łódź (23-25 April 2024), we had the chance to meet our CEFEC Treasurer, Dominik Murawa and visit his Social Enterprise #PubSpółdzielczy Łódź.



EUROPEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY MEETING

On 12 and 13 of February took place the important European Social Economy Meeting in **Liège, Belgium**. The Social Economy at the core of transition, has been the topic faced with a rich program of Panel discussions, workshops and study visits.

An opportunity not only to exchange between some present CEFEC members, but also with other representatives of EU networks, social enterprises, European actors! Social Economy is not only optional, but it has been one of the main powerful statements!



THE SOCIAL ●
● ECONOMY AT
THE CORE OF ●
TRANSITIONS

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2024
LIÈGE – PALAIS DES CONGRÈS

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL
ECONOMY MEETING**

Networking & Projects

DIGI-LANCE4SE ERASMUS+ PROJECT



In the frame of the Erasmus+ Project Digilance4Social Enterprise, on 27 and 28 February took place the **5th TPM, in Žalec, Slovenia**. At the start of the third year of the project, aimed to enhance our Social Enterprise Academy, partners, most of them CEFEC members, are getting closer to concretely pilot the Social Enterprise trainings and tools, developed during the first two years of the project. After the training of trainers in September 2023 in Slovenia, partners are now proceeding with local piloting activities in the six partner countries: Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia.

The meeting was therefore mainly focused on the **planning of the local and transnational trainings**, main activities during 2024. As well, partners started to plan a conference towards the end of the year at the University Ostfalia, lead partner of the project!

Moments of common exchange during the free time and the chance to connect with local network actors, were able to add an important value! Partners will meet again in **Greece in June 2024!**

#MEETME PROJECT

On 22 February we shared our #MeetMe project results, a Handbook and a Toolkit, inside the **CEFEC Sharing conference about European Projects** on the inclusion of young Migrants! #MeetMe, but also the projects #IncludeMi and #MILMET, are all Erasmus+ projects which try to raise the awareness about the important challenge of including young migrants in a human, social and economical way in our Societies. In particular the aspect of inclusion and training in the labour intensive work sectors, as for example the growing Green Economy sector or the sector of Tourism, has been highlighted.

Around 25 persons from Sweden, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Romania, Netherlands and France participated! We will share our instruments and experiences and work on further developments!

MEET ME

DUEMILAUNO

ÖSTERSUNDS KOMMUN STÄRKT FJÄLLE

Co-funded by the European Union

Target Groups and main objective

Target Groups
Target group 1: Our organizations Fornborgens and Timavo
Target group 2: Housing staff at Fornborgens HVB and housing staff at Timavo
Target group 3: The unaccompanied children/adolescents

The overall objective is to improve and increase the competences of the organization staff, to broaden our minds and question prejudices, with the final aim to improve the capacity to support the unaccompanied minors in quality services, to integrate them more efficiently into the society in benefit to achieve their full potential as persons and part of the European society.

Meet Me Torino Osvanand
2023 © MEET ME AND DUEMILAUNO

Video call thumbnails: Lina och Martina, Maria, Cristiana Hultén, Ingrid, Arianna - Open Europe

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

EQUAL CHANCES FOUNDATION, FROM HUNGARY



The Foundation wants to live in a country, a society, where disabled people receive benefits appropriate to their condition, from which they can select and purchase the most appropriate services for themselves. They operate the Csömör Center which provides up-to-date care and development based on personal needs and facilitates the community and the work inclusion for persons with disabilities no matter what disability, illness or social status they have.

Website: <https://egyenloeselyekert.hu/en/bemutakozas/>

SIA “VISAS IESPĒJAS”, FROM LATVIA

SIA “Visas Iespejas” (eng. “All Opportunities”) is a social enterprise focused on youth empowerment and assisting young people generally aged 18-30 in finding employment opportunities through projects, skill training, workshops, job speed-dating events, and vacancy matching platforms. Many of their projects and operations focus on disadvantaged audiences that either live in rural regions where there are scarce opportunities or that do not (currently) possess the necessary skills to be attractive in the job market. They establish themselves as the bridge between youngsters and businesses. Website: <https://visasiespejas.lv/en>



**VISAS
IESPĒJAS**



FUNDACIÓ CATALANA DE L'ESPLAI, FROM SPAIN

Their mission is to educate children and young people, strengthen the Third Sector, improve the environment and promote citizenship and social inclusion, with a transformative will. All their projects and services are focused on achieving this objective based on the organization's commitments to education, coexistence and sustainability. Fundacio Esplai accompanies young people in community and social intervention projects. Through various initiatives of guidance, assessment, training, and support, they work for the social inclusion and personal development of young people, among other vulnerable groups and/or at risk of social exclusion. Website: <https://fundesplai.org/>

2024 CEFEC AWARD

This year we continue with the **SFE CEFEC Award tradition**. In this way, Social Enterprises, Social Firms, Social Cooperatives can present and share good and best practices. Please prepare the following:



Fill in this online Award **Application Form** by 15 June 2024:

<https://forms.gle/FD84dXJZeVMJivMbA>

Create a poster or video – free to be created as you wish and present it on 19 September 2024, during the **CEFEC Annual Conference**, from Lisbon/Portugal. More details about the event are here:

<https://cefecannualconference.eu/home>

More details find also on our [website!](#)

The winners win up to 500 euro, prize given for two sections: Start-Up Social Enterprise & Best Practices Social Enterprise.

Social Firms Europe CEFEC AWARD 2024

Do you work in a social enterprise or run a social firm?

Is your project innovative and outstanding?



APPLY NOW!

www.socialfirmseurope.eu/awards



WHO ARE WE?

Social Firms Europe CEFEC is a well established and respected network since 1987. We have 70+ Members in 28 countries – working together for our vision: helping individuals who otherwise face stigma and discrimination, to overcome their social and economic exclusion through employment.



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 with you 7 of them in our previous Newsletter. The other 8 Podcasts are below:

- » **Alexander Tränkmann**, the SFE CEFEC representative of Gesellschaft für psychosoziale Einrichtungen Mainz, from Germany.
- » **Dominik Murawa**, the SFE CEFEC Treasurer, member of the management group and representative in the Executive Committee from Social Cooperative RESTART, in Poland.
- » **Meto Salijevic**, the SFE CEFEC Archive coordinator & the 1st General Secretary of our network, from Germany.
- » **Carla Silva**, the 2023-2024 Social Firms Europe CEFEC President & a CEFEC Board member since 2003 representing Aria Reabilitação, from Portugal.
- » **Marinka Vovk**, SFE CEFEC Executive Committee representative from Center Ponovne Uporabe, Slovenia.
- » **Klaus Meyer zu Brikwedde**, SFE CEFEC Executive Committee representative from BAG Inklusionsfirmen (bag if), Germany.
- » **Athina Fragkouli**, SFE CEFEC President & Board representative from Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Greece.
- » **Petru Vasile Gafiuc**, SFE CEFEC Development Manager & Board representative from Organizatia Institutul Bucovina, Romania.

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

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

**If you want to stay
connected with our
activities, please follow us!**



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