



LUX'09 RIPESS INEES

22-25 avril 2009

Schifflange et la Kulturfabrik
(Luxembourg)



Evaluation of Lux'09

Lux'09 brought together some 700 participants, including 100 from Luxembourg, 400 Europeans, 80 Africans, 50 North Americans, 40 Latin Americans, 23 people from Asia and 3 Australians. A total of 55 countries were represented, 14 from Europe, 17 from Africa, 10 from Asia and 11 from Latin America and the Caribbean. We should add to these figures 160 volunteers who made such a telling contribution and the 20 stands erected in the solidarity economy village.

The 2 plenary sessions enabled us to set out new fundamental elements that will help us to make progress towards our objectives of becoming a discussion partner that is capable of expressing the collective intelligence and of promoting socio-economic innovations at a time when, against a backdrop of multiple crises, there is a tendency to fight stubbornly in order to save models that are experiencing huge difficulties. However, the social and solidarity economy can only have a significant influence on the introduction of a new form of world governance by joining forces with other civil society movements that are already meeting within social forums and are beginning to elaborate alternates.

A multitude of proposals and action plans emerged from the 13 participative workshops that were held over the course of 3 days and which were based on concrete experiences. The next meeting will be held in the Philippines in Asia and a wide range of continental events are due to take place between now and then.

Europe, which will seek to draw inspiration from the dynamics of the organisation of Lux'09, is now faced with the challenge of structuring itself into a network and may well hold a constitutive conference within two years. Eric Lavillunière, for INEES (European Institute for the Solidarity Economy) and Christine Gent, for IRIS (European Inter-Network of Ethical and Responsible Initiatives) are the new international board members of RIPESS (Intercontinental Network of the Social Solidarity Economy).

In Luxembourg, which is currently in the midst of an electoral campaign, the challenge that has been set is to establish the post of a Minister for the Solidarity Economy in the future Government. Lux'09 has shown that this country has a legitimate right to initiate numerous projects and to integrate itself within the dynamics of international mobilisation, beginning with participation in the project to map social and solidarity economy networks at the global level (workshop 10), which intends, on the basis of a participative methodology, to be a process of collective identification and mobilisation of the networks, not only to establish their number, but also to strengthen the movement and to give it greater visibility (both internally and externally). This can be achieved through the development of training (workshop 0) within the networks and also outside of the networks in order to make people more aware of the social and solidarity based economy (SSE), particularly its capacity to foster the commitment of the citizens. Indeed, this point was highlighted by the researchers (workshop 8), who

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have put forward a proposal to rethink the economy, beyond the market economy, in a plural economy, through the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach to research action which could lead to the elaboration of co-constructed public policies (workshop 1). This new approach to public action requires the creation of appropriate evaluation tools (new indicators of wealth and of well-being). It also means that there is a need to give greater consideration to the territory and its inhabitants (workshop 7) who have been abandoned by dozens of years of top-down macro-economic policies that have been hijacked by financial “experts” who have also overlooked the sustainability of their model. Societal effectiveness should now be accorded greater importance than financial profitability (workshop 4). Furthermore, the environment offers substantial employment potential, as long as we are able to change the economic paradigm. This is particularly the case in terms of our North/South exchanges and our methods of production, marketing and consumption (workshop 6) and may be achieved by focussing greater attention on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of all economic activities. Agriculture has become industrialised and, as a result, entire populations have been abandoned. The SSE promotes food sovereignty as the basis of a project for sustainable global development (workshop 5) and of access to common goods (workshop 2). An exclusively market-based approach does not guarantee prosperity. However, there is strong resistance to change and this means that we must join forces as part of a large social movement, underpinned by complementarity, and more particularly with the trade unions (workshop 11) with whom we have put the joint objectives of respect and the emancipation of the workers back on the agenda. Starting in the solidarity enterprises (workshop 3) that accord priority to the integration of the most destitute and play an important role in ensuring that each individual finds his or her place in society. Their financing also requires the rethinking of all of the financial institutions and our relationship with capital which, first and foremost, is a cultural question (workshop 12)! The instruments of ethical and solidarity financing provide alternatives for the whole of the financial system in general and also represent a rethinking of money and particularly the development of local currencies in networked economies. This presents us with the challenge of devising new organisational and management tools, since the current tools are all based on the competition-driven model (workshop 9).

It is therefore our responsibility to emancipate ourselves from our cultural models of competition and consumption, to reflect upon our relationship with power, to make our own glossary so as facilitate understanding between people from across the planet and notably to give greater space to the young, to women, to native peoples, in order to promote and to implement a better form of governance at all of the local, national and international levels (“one-shot” workshops).

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Lux'09 General Coordinator

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Lux'09 Declaration

To the people of the world, especially those whose voices are not heard, civil society, social and political movements, solidarity based practitioners, governmental and international institutions.

As participants of a growing global social solidarity economy movement that met in Luxembourg from 22-25 April 2009 convened under the leadership of RIPESS, we affirm that:

1. We are in the midst of a global social and economic crisis brought by 30 years of neoliberal rule;
2. This is the latest chapter in a long running crisis which is now a matter of life or death for people and nature; and
3. The social solidarity economy provides a real alternative to the failed economic model of neoliberalism. It creates a horizon of hope against fatalism.

The social solidarity economy is an ongoing collective process of creative work. It is an ethical path of inclusive development grounded in real practices of cooperation, reciprocity, participatory democracy, social and economic justice, peace, plurality and cultural diversity, creativity, sustainability, and equity (North-South, gender, ethnicity, class, age, etc.).

We commit to:

- Promote and strengthen social solidarity economy networks and organizations;
- Facilitate participation of social and political movements in the Social Solidarity Economic movement;
- Set concrete targets for example: to reach out to 100 million people by the year 2013;
- Participate in the co-construction production of policies whereby the Social Solidarity Economy can play a significant role in addressing the impacts of the Global crisis and achieving equality for all citizens of the world.

During the 4th Globalization of Solidarity Meeting, the 700 participants in plenaries and 19 workshops demonstrated that **“Another economy exists: the innovations of the social and solidarity economy.”**

Through this collective and participatory process of dialogue and debate, we propose the following innovative proposals, commitments and demands:

(see workshops' summaries document)

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