

## Alternative markets for SSE products and services: How can we make further advances in this aspect?

### 1 - Learning collectively by sharing practices and analysis

#### **Social mobilization of the concerned**

Most often, this is the source of new opportunities for responses to different crises that affect them.

#### **Collective and collaborative dimension of the management of resources**

It multiplies the possible combinations between resources, as evidenced by the examples: monetary - public or private - and non-monetary for more complete or outright alternative responses.

#### **Teachings of the territorial approach in building over time**

Social inventions meet specific needs in the context where they operate. They translate into action the ability to take risks based on an analysis and a commitment. They include major fundamental rights issues (gender equality, territorial social dialogue, social justice, equitable and sustainable management of resources, fair trade relations, dialogue between cultures, food, etc.) in the construction of appropriate responses. Be projected over time to achieve its goals can overcome the rigidities of institutions and cultural resistance to take its place in the social landscape and thought.

Since 1965, nearly 50 years (!) - Seikatsu Club in Japan shows by example that self-organization of a major solidarity market is possible with 350,000 members who buy directly with prices negotiated according to the needs of producers. Annually, they buy about one billion dollars (700 million Euros). They have a global vision linking the local and the global. For over 20 years, Seikatsu Club is engaged in the major global issues such as GMO's, WTO, renewable energies (anti-nuclear)...

**Institutional support** is a key external factor to enhance or impede institutional change.

The success of LIDE (Local Initiatives for Development and Employment) in the 90s in Europe can be explained by the "legitimizing effect obtained from the Commission" and "the mobilization of local economic development actors" quicker to seize the Commission proposals for governments. They thrive in an area when they find a combination of positive factors, such as raw materials (funding, professionalism, and technical skills), skills (knowledge of regulations, marketing, service design) and an enabling environment (climate cooperation, sufficient length of incubation). "

Regional and national governments can play a neutral or positive role in the establishment of infrastructures increasing the capacity of actors organized on a local basis to engage in effective institutional design. Dedicated and honest agents arrive to set up new institutions well adapted to the local context, but the tendency to try to impose uniform rules in all a domain, rather than rules adapted to each situation makes it extremely difficult to establish and enforce rules that appear to be effective and fair to local actors.

In corrupt regimes, problems establishing institutions are more complex because the probability is less that there is a stakeholder group organized on a local basis who has the information, consistency and sufficient autonomy.

**The combined influence of socio-economic innovations already confront the erosion of created by the present macroeconomics situation.**

The ability to anticipate and adapt these approaches are currently being strained by tighter destructive uncontrolled development impacts. However, projects, tools, organizations and alternative markets open today on real opportunities to "systemic alternatives" in the service of a necessary radical transformation of the fundamentals. For the current model of economic growth is unscrupulous, no jobs, no future, no roots and no voice. It is in the process of exhausting the resources of the planet.

The social and solidarity economy is an alternative to capitalism and other economic systems dominated by an authoritarian state. Because it allows ordinary people to play an active role in the development of their economic life.

This is one of the key proposals of the Asia Solidarity Economy Council addressed to the UN High Level Group about Axis No. 5 of the document "Towards a new global partnership" whose goal is to eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development post-2015 (2016 - 2030)

## **2 - What democratic economic and social local governance for of scaling up the solutions:**

**Fact:** Globally, the damage of economic globalization accumulate. They threaten future generations and the planet itself. Neither the states nor the multinationals are able to define and enforce balanced regulations. Moreover, there is still no independent force in society to ensure and monitor compliance with common rules, democratically validated.

**Build quality partnerships with local and regional authorities.**

Too often, their representatives prefer to cooperate with the private sector and do not recognize inhabitants as their natural partners in the management of the common good. Examples of partnerships, particularly in Quebec and in Brazil, show the way. Nevertheless, much remains to be done to install lasting relationships and stable and interactive partnerships between regions and SSE actors.

**Regions and federal states, new actors of global governance**

Their activities rebalance the current vision of centralized power by installing horizontal relationships in concrete partnerships between territories in the framework of decentralized cooperation or sustainable development

**Opening up of relations between SSE networks and local authorities** in France in the context of a ministry dedicated to SSE and the Network of Solidarity Economy Territories in existence for 10 years. They have engaged a dialogue between themselves since they recognize the fact that "working in a transversal manner is a constant struggle" in order to encourage a post-crisis economy based on a system of sharing and cooperation to develop

an alternative model of development that escapes the single market logic and be able to provide answers to the economic, social and environmental challenges.

**The work of gathering and sharing needs to continue** to build a broad vision based on practices SSE in the Territories. Too few contributions do not allow for a complete picture of significant innovations in public policy in Latin America, particularly in Brazil, Asia and Africa. The same is true for questions of natural resources (such as minerals) and sustainable development which are questions addressed for the time in RIPPSS intercontinental meetings.

### **3. The construction of new collective actors for 21st century**

Immediate deadlines should not obscure the time factor required by intangible investments that install confidence and conditions of change. This is why tools such as intermediary organizations, self-and co-financed in the long term - networking, community, platform, councils and more, - are also essential that public policies that regulate and support, and projects that repair, prevent and build.

#### **Civic organization in a global approach.**

One example is the international coordination URGENCI, in place since 2004. The solidarity purchasing groups between producers and consumers is a form of local pacts supported by local networks that exist in the world. Conceptualizing their characteristics provides a common sense of the innumerable singular practices and enhances their general vector of the general interest beyond the groups themselves. Thinking of connecting the territory and the social life in a holistic approach considers all the relationships that the economy has with food including energy, carbon footprint, human rights, food sovereignty and the recognition of singularity to transform the system. This gives greater credibility to a non-partisan political voice at the highest level.

#### **Debate in the public a citizen's road map, alternative and cooperative**

This is an example currently proposed by the Colibri movement in France who gives itself «a 50 year great direction» with five priorities for putting the economy in its rightful place: serving the public interest, i.e. the well-being, independence and freedom of human beings and ecosystem restoration.

The priorities: localize / decentralize, liberate / diversify currency; reinvent / redirect taxation; protect / take care of the commons, developing businesses and activities of the 21<sup>o</sup> century to build viable and innovative business models of tomorrow. The proposals are organized around levers to operate on each axis with a variation of relevance categories of stakeholders: national and European representatives, local elected officials, entrepreneurs, citizens.

#### **Learn from each other to help each other and build a long-term policy by example**

Appropriate lessons by «peer» exchanges" in order to better cope with uncertainty and multiply the potential of the solutions. For we must understand that we have learned to bring together proposals.

The experience of European P'ACTS demonstrates the suitability of operating a horizontal platform in an objective of a subsequent disseminating. Established in 2007

for the preparation of the 4th Meeting of RIPESS «Lux'09», its principles are: previous definition of operating rules and is open to any voluntary person who commits to actively contribute; a program of activities of 2 years, alternating between regional meetings (Learning Journeys) and intermediate national meetings to take stock of achievements, accommodate new initiatives and address the substantive issues, goals and strategies for change. The prospect of a "post Lux'09" announced at the launch, to feed a double movement: a European proposal on the one hand and, on the other hand, a return to the experiences in the field to evaluate progress and to debate how to improve collective action. Our organization has allowed us to assure continuity for the four year period from Lux'09 to Manila'13.

### **Changing the viewpoint: mixing theoretical and practical intelligence to establish collective action**

Two different approaches exist among economists to judge performance "micro" and "macro", but none to analyze, in an articulated manner, local economies. However, Local / Global are not opposed - it is within the local that things happen. Although the initiatives are not based on the same theoretical concept, their underlying principles are common, as highlighted in several contributions.

We need to orient analysis efforts differently to determine how the initiatives of individuals and their collective inventions are not as users, addressing the government for a program, but as actors producing efforts to find their own sustainable and equitable solutions to complex problems within the arena provided by the courts, the legislature and local authorities. For example, besides individual or state management of property rights, there may be a third effective institutional framework in which communities or organized communities can collectively manage the commons.

It is through this source of knowledge that the conditions of democratic legitimacy and effectiveness for a local social and economic governance can be established. Manila'13 could endorse this collective project for the next four years.

### **PROPOSAL**

#### **Make territorial approach a permanent axis of work to promote social economy as an economic alternative**

Territorial anchorage is different - and completes - the topic 'Solidarity Economy as a discipline for which the constraints of territory are a parameter among others. The focus is more on sectors: fair trade, social currency, social Finance, ethical consumption, food sovereignty, etc.

Workshop 7 at Lux'09 gave clear evidence that territorial anchorage appears when we look at the reality of the Solidarity Economy in a territorial approach, from local to global. An important advantage of this approach is to provide a realistic view of the level of development in communities, countries and continents. It examines more rigorously its different dimensions and facets to their current stage of development. This improves the vision to strengthen the thematic aspects, in order to stimulate the Solidarity Economy as an alternative economy in a given locality. More importantly, the local presence sharpens the focus on the role of governance in the promotion of Solidarity Economy as an economic alternative in the process of globalization.

Organizing team of this Forum

**All postings are on the RIPPES international website**

<http://www.ripess.org/forums/topic/theme-2-fr/>

<http://www.ripess.org/forums/topic/theme-2/?lang=en>

<http://www.ripess.org/forums/topic/tema-2/?lang=es>

**A resume of the contributions is available (in French only)**

<http://www.pactes-locaux.org/bdf/docs/> (available soon)