

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #7



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"A network for your social economy vision"

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1. New details about the 2013 SFE CEFEC Conference

+ Registration and Fees

The Registration for the Conference will be handled by the Social Cooperative of Fokida (KoiSPE), which has recently established an **Alternative Travel Agency**.

REGISTRATION FEES (EUR) including conference folder, access to the main conference and workshops, coffee breaks, lunches, transportation from the city centre to the conference area, city tour, and gala dinner.	Registration up to 05/09/2013 please mark with a cross	
Members of SFE CEFEC	160,--	
Non-members	180,--	
Persons with disabilities, students *Students should provide certification of their academic identity upon registration	100,--	
REGISTRATION PROCESS:		
You can register for the conference by completing the form you will receive by email, and sending it to the contact details below. Conference Secretariat: Elisavet Kotsanou – Koispe Yannis Volikas E-mail: cefecsecr2013@yahoo.gr Tel/Fax: 0030 22650 28507		

+ Accommodation

The Travel Agency has already been in touch with various hotels ideally situated near the city centre and in the nearby area. In the registration form you have a special box which you can check if you need help with accommodation.

+ Venue for the Conference

The Conference will take place in the establishments of the **Ionian University** from Corfu:
<http://www.ionio.gr/central/en/announcements/read/456/>

+ For individual grants you can find more information at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/about/llp/individual_grants_and_scholarships_en.php

2. Activities for the promotion of SFE CEFEC

- **Social Inclusion & Economy. Regional Models – European Best practices in Alba Iulia**

Four of our members from SFE CEFEC, Petru Vasile Gafiuc, Tom Zuljevic-Salamon (Die Querdenker Austria), representatives from CFCECAS Romania and Mrs. Despina Katsouda from Koi.S.P.E. “New Horizons” participated between **28 and 30 March 2013** in **Alba Iulia** (Romania) at the conference on social inclusion and economy.



The Conference

represented a good opportunity to present the results of the project *Social Inclusion and Inclusion on the Labor Market through Social Enterprises*, co-financed by the European Social Fund, as well as to promote models and good practices of social economy developed within the project, but also some success stories on European level. This project was developed by the County Council of Alba, Civitas Foundation for Civil Society, the Consultancy for Development Group, the Centre for Advanced Training and Assessment of Skills in Social Assistance and Die Querdenker Austria.

More details about the Conference:

<http://www.economiesociala-alba.ro/new/index.php/en/>

- **Euro-Mediterranean Youth Facing the Crisis: citizenship, arts and transition**

The technical secretary of SFE CEFEC, Alina Bîrsan, participated in the period **24-28 March 2013** at the conference ***Euro-Mediterranean Youth Facing the Crisis. Citizenship, Arts and Transition***, which took place in Sousse (Tunisia). The meeting was organized in the framework of the Anna Lindh Foundation programme “Citizens for Dialogue – Dawrak”, and gathered participants from Maghreb countries, as well as from Euro-Mediterranean countries, especially those with a recent experience in transition.

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SFE CEFEC was presented especially during the **workshop Youth and Social Entrepreneurship**, the participants being also invited to attend the 2013 Conference from Corfu. The workshop promoted reflection on social entrepreneurship and youth, which will increase the awareness and the ability of young people to provide practical solutions and to reconcile the economic approach with social objectives.



More details: http://www.fsm2013.org/organisation_info/30724 or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/231048393703940/>

3. EDF Annual General Assembly



Between **25 and 26 May 2013**, it took place the EDF Annual General Assembly, in **Athens (Greece)**. Social Firms Europe CEFEC is a member of the European Disability Forum and has a chair on the Board, where Mrs. Athena Frangouli was delegated as a SFE CEFEC representative.

Topics of discussion:

- EDF election
 - Reports about implementation of UN CRPD
 - Impact of the crisis
 - Fight for human rights
- International Cooperation with IDA, Arab Disability Forum, African Disability Forum
 - Structural funds

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Conclusions:

- the **EDF Presidency** is continuing with Mr. Yannis Vardakastanis which was voted by all delegates and also our representative Mrs. **Athena Frangouli has a chair on the Board** of members, for the next mandate 2013 – 2017.
- it was presented a document created by EDF experts named **ACT NOW** and this should be used for lobby and advocacy by all EU citizens with disabilities, http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=32513
- the participants were informed also about the **26th CEFEC Conference in Corfu**

4. About our members



Polona Štefanić, Treasurer of SFE CEFEC

The organization Social Firms Europe CEFEC I first met back in 1997 in the context of projects Mariental and Phare Lien. At that time, the organization ŠENT - Slovenian Association for Mental Health, where I was employed, formally became a member of SFE CEFEC. I regularly attend at SFE CEFEC conferences since 2000, usually with active contributions, which represent a group of ŠENT` social enterprises and the development of social entrepreneurship in Slovenia. Since that time, I am also a member of the Executive Committee SFE CEFEC.

I am a university social pedagogue, as well as an accountant. In the last two years I managed Employment center Dobrosin, which is one of the 8 social enterprises owned by the ŠENT. My area of working is particularly finance and accounting. My hobbies include spending time outdoors, jogging and walking, yoga, good books and movies.



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5. The History of Social Firms Europe CEFEC



The Social Firms movement in Europe led to the first meeting in Berlin in 1987, Torino 1988 and Maastricht in 1989. The strongest step of development was introduced when the European nonprofit organization of CEFEC (The Confederation of European social Firms, Employment initiatives and social Cooperatives) was founded. The CEFEC Charta published on 26th April 1990, agreed, according to Belgium law contains the main facts, goals and believes. The first impact came from the Italian movement of cooperatives and the German movement of Employment Firms in the early eighties. The emphasis was on the worker's role rather than the patient's role as an act of autonomy. This attitude also led to a clear distinction between sheltered workshops, their disabling structures and the social firms modeled along normal work conditions.

In 1986 a European meeting was held in London on Occupational Therapy supported by Mr. Partick Daunt, who was in charge of the EU office "Handicapped Affairs". It was his vision to support the setting up of Employment for the psychosocial disadvantaged, an area, neglected so far. A group of activists in the field of work and employment for psychiatric patients in England, Germany, Greece and Italy started the movement which later became the CEFEC organization. There have been annual meetings all through the years, as the stronghold of the network has spread since.

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