

Social and solidarity economy Conference

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A definition of solidarity economy in western
Europe

A french example of self organized day care
centers for young children

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What is RIPESS

- RIPESS is a european network of national local and thematic networks dedicated to promoting SSE.
- It was born in 2009 in Luxemburg and its foundation congress in 2011 in Barcelona.
- Its main program is to get an overview of SSE in Europe and help common projects among members
It has a resource site socioeco.org
- Its governance has a horizontal design : a coordination committee and a consultative committee. A General Assembly every year (next 20- 22 June 2016) and a congress every two years (last Berlin Sept 2015)
- MES is one of the french national networks for SSE

RIPESS activities 1/2

- RIPESS Europe is working on territories and local development (crossing the borders: exchanging and learning visits in East and South of Europe)
- popular education in cooperation with the Academics: the University network (RIUESS),
- co-funding of common projects among members networks
- promoting the information exchange and the work on transversal themes such as food sovereignty, redlab (réseau des laboratoires d'économie coopérative sociale et solidaire for example
- linking with public / local authorities and european parliament members to advance legislation on SSE across Europe.

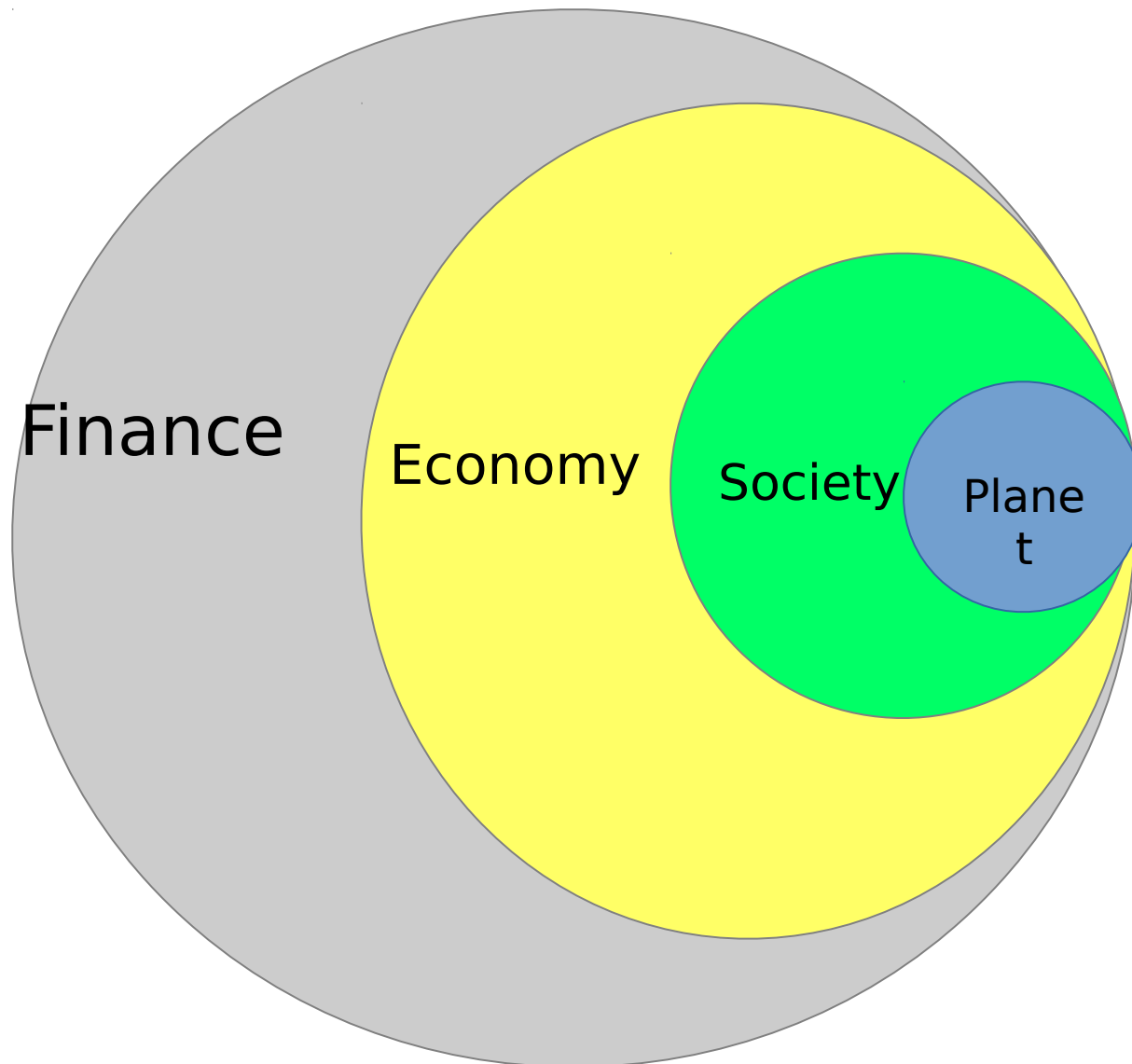
RIPESS activities 2/2

Its main program is currently the Panorama

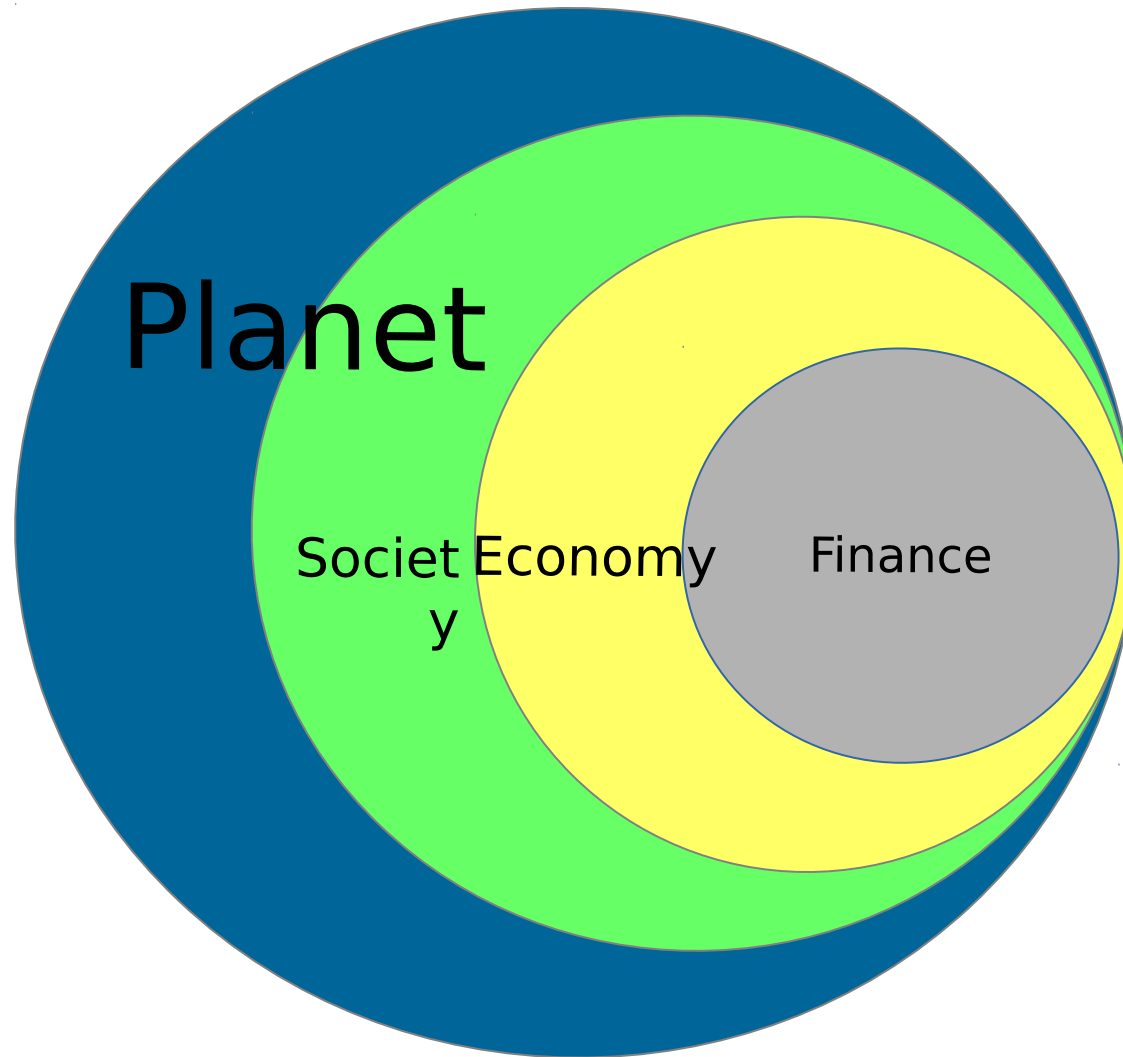


<http://www.ripest.eu/panorama2015/>

The inverted circles...



... how it should be!



What is solidarity economy in the western context

- A long history : end of XIXe the industries use a very cheap workforce and the workers to fight their miserable condition get self organized (mutual support for health, food, lack of job and so on) First solidarity banks
- A revival due to the 80e crisis
- A definition : democracy in the enterprises, social justice in distribution of the profit, awareness of the limit of the planet and of the right for any human being to be part of the society. Solidarity fight against poverty by giving back to people their rights and means to autonomy
- More and more introduced in the law (France, Spain, Portugal)

A long (pre-)history

- Cooperative movement
- Mutualistic associations
- Public and community banks
- Consumer coops / networks
- Unions and workers' movements
- Welfare State and Third sector

Oh, Europe!

- Thatcher's T.I.N.A. (There Is No Alternative)
- The Euro (2001)
- Lisbon Treaty (2007)
- From State economies to European Central Bank
- Merkel's Austerity / Troika
- TTIP etc.



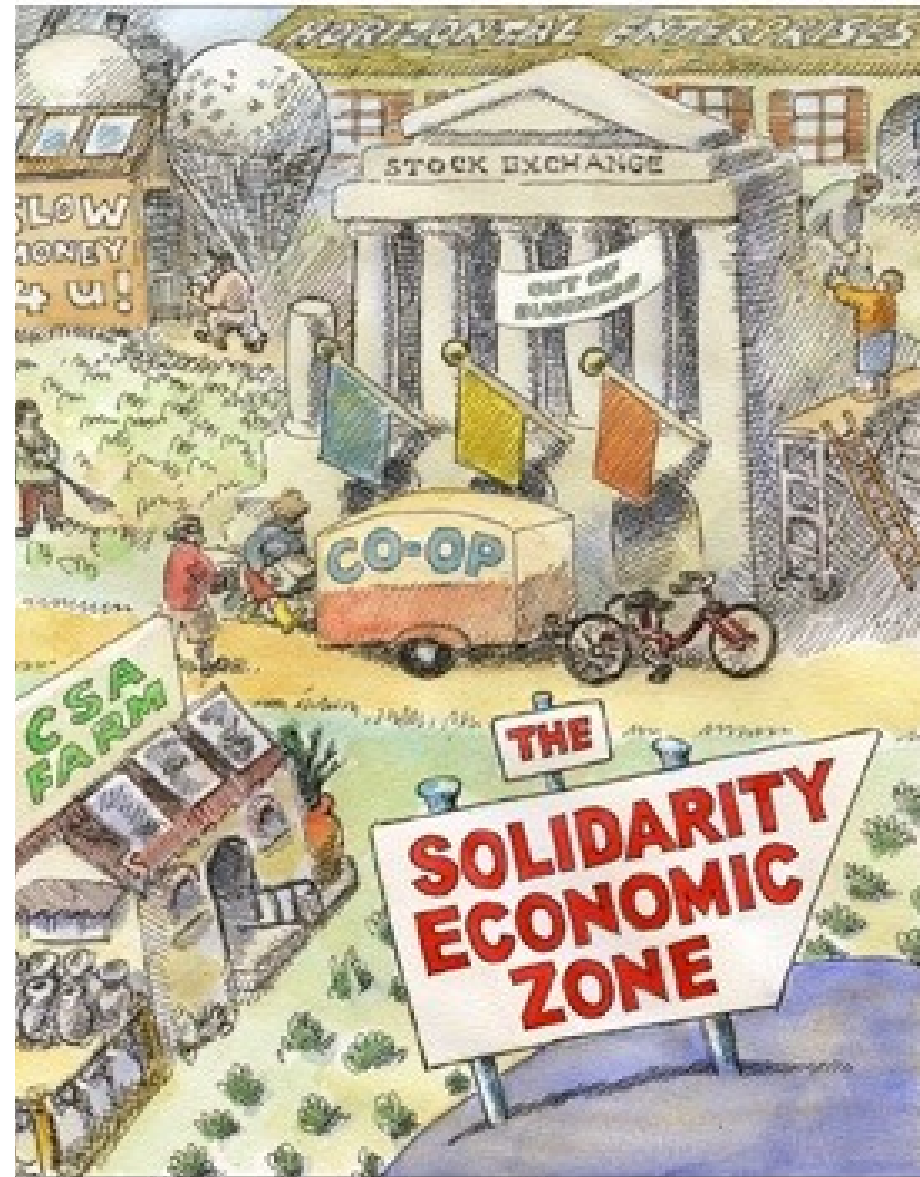
From protest...



- The Fall of the Wall (1989)
- The WTO (Seattle 1999) and G8s (Genova 2001)
- Farewell Welfare! Privatising essential services (Bolkenstein directive, SSIG - General Interest Social Services)
- Indignados (2011)

...to building alternatives

- Fair trade - also north/north and local
- CSAs and Solidarity consumer groups
- Ethical banks, mutual finance and local currency
- Cohousing and Right to the City
- Transition towns, De-growth, Zero Waste, sharing / P2P economy
- Re-publicizing the Commons (water, essential services, etc.)
- Renewable energy collectives, organic farming, local production chains



S(S)E in EU: some numbers

- In Sweden, Belgium, France, Netherlands and Italy: between 9% and 11,5% of the working population is involved in some social enterprise.
- 14,5 million Europeans work in ESS enterprises, or 6,5 % of the working population of the EU (from 11 millions in 2002-2003)



Parental daycare centers for young children in deprived areas

A french example



Some elements of context (1/3)

- In the seventies babyboomers women don't stay anymore at home and integrate the workforce : lack of early childhood provision
- Some parents decide to self organize to provide collective care for their young children. In a second step they pay for professional assistance, as permanent staff, but still help taking care of the children (12 to 16 in large rented apartments or houses specially furnished for accomodating children
- Their aims are
 - to create daycare opportunities,
 - build a network of families who can rely on each others : solidarity among them.
 - Reflect and share on educating matters to change adult attitudes towards kids (no violence, respect and listening to their needs etc...)

Some elements of context (2/3)

1980 Some self organized daycare centers gather and create ACEPP (federation of parental creches))

1981 The new elected socialist government officially recognize parental creches, definitively in 2000. Within 20 years some 1000 day care centers are created.

1986 An experimental program is launched by ACEPP to implement Parental daycare centers in low cost housing areas where migrants and poor families are to be found : 4 pilot dcc are created

1990 After evaluation, the dissemination program is launched. More than 50 new centers are created. A special training curricula is developed to help professional to cope with intercultural matters.

Some elements of context (3/3)

1991 a european program (New opportunities for women) brings together Belgium, Ireland, Greece, France, UK with a special focus on intercultural matters. How to help cultural exchanges among the community through early childhood education.

Creation of Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training, a network still existing and still working on migrant integration and children wellbeing.

<http://decet.org/>

How does it work ?

- Parents get together in a neighbourhood and create an association.
- They find a place to set up the creche.
- They hire one or two professional(s) and ask for the official agreement of the creche to local authorities.
- The budget is ideally one third from state, one third from municipality, one third from parents fees.
- Parents take à turn to assist the professionals during half a day per week or a few hours a month.
- Parents are responsible judicially as employers.
- They have regular meeting to discuss every issues regarding the well being of the children and the governance of the creche.

Conclusion

- The french example is one of the diverse illustrative way of what can be done to get involved into a community structure dedicated to common needs.
- It is a very good way to enter a particularly useful network for the lone parents, the new neighbors or the foreign families. It helps them to find job or training opportunities
- It has the different aspects of solidarity economy : **democratic governance**, **social justice** (with a fee depending on the level of the family income) and **ecological awareness** : the children are well treated with healthy food and **respect of their cultural appartenance..**

All children and adults
diversity & equity
have the right
diversité & équité
to evolve and to develop
diversiteit & gelijkwaardigheid
in a context
Vielfalt & Gleichwürdigkeit
where there is
la diversidad y la equidad
equity and respect
éagsúlacht agus cothromas
for diversity
διαφορετικότητα & ισοτητα δικαιωματος

Thank you



www.riposs.eu