RIPESS EUROPE – Solidarity Economy Europe
5th General Assembly

Workshop 4

Panorama of SSE in Europe

Convened by: Josette Combes (MES/RIUESS) and Françoise Wautiez (Socioeco)

Josette Combes introduced the history of the project and its main goals – among which compile data on SSE and attract new members to the network; Françoise Wautiez, presented the preliminary results which could be inferred from the 400 current responses to the questionnaire, though there has not yet been a formal analysis of the results. Cristiano Colombo from Solidarius proposed to work on it with his students.

In several countries there are already mapping and research initiatives that can be a source of data:
- in Finland, a map and a questionnaire on values, governance, management of profits etc. which was useful for the exchange of experiences;
- in Romania, the Social Economy Institute publishes every year an atlas online in English and Romanian;
- Urgenci conducted a study facilitated by coordinators in each countries;
- the SUSY/Ssedas project used the questionnaire of Panorama and has collected a large number of data with an expanded southward vision;
- in UK, the New Economic Foundation and the Real Economy Lab have worked to make a mind-map of the different alter-economic « tribes »;
- in the region of Trentino in Italy, they established criteria for enterprises in the ESS and a mapping;
- the EMES research network has a very ambitious project called ICSEM, based on a questionnaire and case studies all over the world - Karl Birkholzer is the Coordinator for the Germany;
Ensie has a lot of statistical data on work integration enterprises ;
- Etc.

The development of the SSE Panorama is in 3 main steps:
- the acquisition and compilation of data;
- their analysis;
- the promotion of the results

Proposals:
- Improve the survey questionnaire ;
- Each member should circulate the questionnaire in their immediate environment and find driving forces to engage and motivate the initiatives to complete the questionnaire (as a tool of popular education or contribution to a collective reflection, for instance) ;
- Analyse existing data in a multidimensional vision; to do this, it would be necessary to find funding to work on the results and present them;
- Use the Ripess Europe interactive website to share the results: find an appropriate technology (basecamp?) that may have multiple roles (a platform for exchanges of products? of sharing projects?)
- Share results with predefined standards so that each entity can reproduce these results on its own mapping.
- Share concrete elements: a calendar of the SSE, shared definitions (Solecopedia?) and a webtv.