

REVES focus

European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy SPECIAL ISSUE

on:

REVES EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013

The 7th of June 2013 was a remarkable day! 27 of the 40 applicants to the REVES EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013 gathered in the Lippens Auditorium, in the Belgian Royal Library, in Brussels to present their experiences of partnerships between public authorities and social economy organizations.

Indeed, the REVES EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013 was aimed at **identifying and rewarding the best working examples of partnership between public authorities and social and solidarity economy** active in the following fields: Local development, welfare, socially sustainable local development and international cooperation.

The jury, composed by Jens Nilsson (European Parliament), Antonella Noya (OECD), Marcel Smeets (Social Economy Europe), Miguel Angel Cabra de Luna (Economic and Social Committee of the EU), Carmen Arroyo de Sande (European Foundation Centre), Jan Olsson and Philippe Chesneau (REVES), had a very hard time evaluating the different applications. Indeed,



after a full month of work on all the eligible ones, their decisions were put to the test by the presentations! In the end, the decision was to award all the projects with a certificate and to present a special mention to 5 of them: Zeybu Solidaire, ESPRIT3, PLUSS Future Clean, REALIS and Social Enterprise Incubator of Silesia.



The next step will be the elaboration of the “yearbook of REVES EXCELLENCES 2013”, due to be published in the autumn; but in the meanwhile, in order to render the atmosphere of the day, we decided for a special issue of the REVES newsletter, as a sort of short report of the day.

Before passing to the “excellences” it is important to remind that the award was supported and sponsored by three social economy organizations, of different kinds and levels: The Social Cooperative CSC sistemi, the ONCE Foundation and the SEFEA European Society for Ethical and Alternative financing, we wish to thank them once again.



The **Tapig** project, from Hamburg (DE) introduced a model for “a two-way process of mutual win-win by migrants and by the society that receive them”; Dominik Klein presented the large partnership supporting the project, ranging from Federal to Local Authorities and social economy organisations, academic and training institutes, other economic players and representatives of the countries of origins. A very effective system to co-operate in order to “activate the potential of migration for the labour market!”



Alicia Marszalek described the work of the **Babiogórskie Stowarzyszenie Zielona Linia** that,



on the basis of a stable cooperation with the local self-government body has been publishing a newspaper and organising participation in the city of Stryzawa (PL) for 10 years now. A very concrete activity expressed also through the organization of “workshops with the participation of regional civil servants and residents” that served to “re-arrange the place!”.

The “**Community theatre halfway to** of a “partnership with a difference”, as composed by the City of Kokkola, the Kokkola, the Kokkotyö Foundation Pekka and Mikko is based on a by needs, develop an informal



“**somewhere**”, from kokkola (FIN), was the result Margita Lukkarinen said. The partnership Theater of Kokkola, the Employment office of and the physical persons Piia, Emilia, Noora, process where “people (come) first, organized structure and create resources”.

In Jaroslaw (PL), three years were sufficient to create the first mixed public/social partnership and only a few more months to **for the social market economy Jaroslaw** agreement, Lis showed the tremendous potential of such a partnership by the field of social housing, co-housing and support to social general.



social cooperative made by a sign the “**Local partnership** gathering 16 entities. Olimpia presenting different projects in economy development in

“Due to the closing down of our grocery store in October 2008, a group of residents, supported by the city of Eybens created a unique project involving fresh and food delivery within a restricted area, enhancing social links, solidarity and eco-citizenship”; with this simple description Jean-Jacques Pierre introduced the “**Zeybu Solidaire**” experience, from Eybens (FR): a community initiative that started a partnership with the municipality in order to create what came out to be a sophisticated system of local solidarity, based on community action.



Charles Richards **partnership in** the City of Dublin, Protection, Barka Poland”. The aim eastern



insisted on the importance of the external input to start “ **the Barka Dublin** (that) provides since 2012 opportunities for co-operation between Crosscare, Depaul Ireland, New Communities Unite Department of Social for Mutual Help Ireland, Mendicity Institution and Barka Foundation in of such partnership is to provide opportunities to vulnerable central and Europeans in Ireland.

The “**Intergrated Support for Job Inclusion**” in the area of generated a complex network based on different partnerships. gather “the Province of Ravenna, 18 Municipalities, the local National Pubic Insurance Company, all local Employment Social Cooperatives, Vocational Training Centres and Territorial enhance the employment of the disabled and disadvantaged “mediated inclusion programmes”, presented Riccardo Zoffoli.



Ravenna (IT) Such partnerships Health Authority, the Services, several Social Services” to persons through

The partnership between the City of Bergamo (IT) and the Consortium of social cooperatives SOLCO Bergamo is to “share responsibilities in the general interest of the community, to support human development and social integration”, thus acting as “**Promoters of Solidarity**”. This partnership came out to be a powerful instrument of co-programming for social and employment re-insertion of disabled and disadvantaged people, with concrete applications in a number of effective projects, as Rita Finco demonstrated in her presentation.



“How to answer to the need for cultural expression of people facing difficulties on the roannais territory” by fostering the “values of participation, dignity, respect, solidarity, citizenship and democracy”; this was the issue faced by the **Odyssés de l’Espoir** initiative in the Roannais agglomeration (FR). Daniel Duroy explained how they provided an effective answer by creating an Association (1901) whose members are natural persons, families, associations of different levels, representatives of 40 municipalities and other regional or national institutions.





The **Lwówek Local Partnership (PL)** is a stunning example of how a social economy/local authorities partnership can be effective; 18 new villages' organizations created in 6 years by this joining of forces between Barka and different municipalities in the district of Nowy Tomyśl had a real effect on public life, in the improvement of democracy and participation as well as in improving the quality of life for all parts of local societies, as Piotr Dlugosz and Alicia Zajaz showed.

The role of Barka was of primary importance in the development of the **social economy partnership of Czarnków (PL)** as well, underlined



Boleslaw Chwarscianek and Monika Piotrowska. This tri-folded partnership between the public authority, the civil society organizations and the private businesses allowed to start two social cooperative and two centers for the promotion of social economy and social integration in the region.

The **Conferenza Permanente delle Sociali** of Tuscan Region is the first principle of subsidiarity in a political body, as body, representing 5100 social economy *on the main programming documents in the cohesion* and *assess the impact of regional* Giorgetti.



Autonomie

experience in Italy embedding the the Regional Council. This consultative organizations *provides binding opinions field of social, economic and territorial policies on social life*, stated Sandra

The **Human Resources Unlimited (BE)** *contributes to social participation and prevents discrimination*. The partnership involves in the field of employment, several other authorities, 3 social organizations and 4 profit companies. As Anne Coetsier said, the cooperation is that *more people with few chances on the labour currently get stuck in social economy employment, get job regular economy*.



inclusion, active a regional authority economy outcome of this market, who opportunities in



L'Atelier-centre de ressources régional de l'économie sociale et solidaire (FR) works for the development of social economy at a regional level. In fact Atelier is a *centre of expertise for the development of social activities within the Île-de-France region*. The centre provides services to future entrepreneurs, works with the territorial authorities in order to develop policies and is also involved in the study and promotion of social economy, as Laura Winn explained.

The **Plateforme de Finance et d'épargne solidaire (FR)** brings together different organisations under the label "Finansol" in Pays de Montbéliard. Investing money in solidarity-based savings in one of these organisations is a good way to *finance economic activities useful to fight against social exclusion and support social cohesion and sustainable development*. Thierry Serdet underlined that the objective of the platform is to *inform, make sensitive, collect the solidarity-based savings*.



PLUSS Future Clean (UK) is a pan disability, social enterprise-based employment



development project. The partnership is broad and involves local authorities, social enterprises, Job Centres Pluss and supported employment organizations. As underlined by Rod Burnett during his presentation *Future Clean delivers environmental, social, mainstreaming, local employment, inclusion, disability, disadvantage and engagement outcomes*. The project developed as a

social franchise and it is currently active in 11 UK Local Authority regions.

"Start up!, Drive Safe! Develop!." The **East Sweden Cooperation (SE)** aims at creating a regional consensual model for integrating unemployed back in the labour market by means of social economy. This is totally unique in Sweden as Lelle Karlsson sustained, and this cooperation *can contribute with a model that can inspire other in the struggle*



for a better and more sustainable Europe by starting up, driving safe and developing new social businesses/working cooperatives". The partnership involves a public authority (East Sweden Region) and social economy organizations (Coompanion, SERUS, SE UPP! and Kooptjänst).

A partnership of 6 municipalities and 2 non-governmental organizations supports the **Social Enterprise Incubator of Silesia** (PL). The Incubator achieved during the 2012 providing different support services *citizens interested in social enterprise, those who want initiatives and those who want to develop their social "municipalities and non-governmental organizations that environment for social economy development"*, Dersiewicz.



the **Social Enterprise** impressive results addressed to "all the to create new enterprises" and to want to create friendly explained Adam

Global Grant ESPRIT3 (IT) designed a complex and social intervention aiming at "contributing to minimise the factors causing poverty and deprivation in order to promote gradual social and economic inclusion as well as the removal poverty". The actions are carried out by means of calls for tender with the full involvement of third sector organisations. highlighted the overall objective of the project is "to fight poverty and deprivation by supporting projects focused on people's personalised development plans".



innovative model of effect of different an effective and of situations of proposal and calls for As Elisa Mancinelli against the causes of disadvantaged



The **REALIS** initiative (FR) is construction between a public region (FR), and social economy brings together 5 innovative social economy by focusing on innovation capabilities". This



the outcome of a "co-authority, Languedoc Roussillon organisations". This project initiatives "aiming at stimulating its development and social "REALIS chain" is an active Belus and Muriel Nivert-Boudou

network for social innovation in the region, as Ines explained.

The Structural partnership between social economy players and federal authority (BE) is an example of partnership between 3 organisations representing the social economy (Vosec, SAW-B and SE Europe) and a national authority working against poverty in Belgium (SPP Intégration sociale). Julien Van Geertsom explained that these organisations are working together for the promotion and development of social economy in Belgium and at European level, as shown during the Belgian presidency of the EU.



The **Intermediate Labour Market (ILM)** (UK) is a concept where "transition" employment is funded for six months within social enterprises and charities. The project started in 2000 as a local partnership between the public sector and social enterprises in the North-West of Wales and in 2013 it evolved into a nationwide project. The ILM employment programme represents "a remarkable journey since 2000 with local authorities, Welsh European Funding Office, Welsh Government, UK Government" that "has changed the lives of over 5,000 people in Wales and mainstreamed the concept into major Welsh Government policy for tackling explained.



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Social Production (SoPro) (AT,HU) is a which was implemented with project SoPro project aims to "expand clients and social enterprises, and to find and services of high quality, and to further



project idea of KOMUNITAS OG, partners from Austria and Hungary. cooperation of enterprises, public and develop sustainable products their marketability, so that a broader

public becomes familiar with them", showed Franz Rybaczek and Doris Mayer.

CDRT (Development Centre in Tensift region) built a strong partnership with many organisations (universities, civil society, public authorities, professional chambers) working at a regional level in Morocco. Ahmed Chehbouni presented just few of the several and effective projects that this partnership has been implementing in order to promote and develop Tensift Region.



ICS MES is a the European project brings Portugal, Greece to facilitate the and involves



territorial cooperation project funded by Programme MED. Jean-Luc Chautagnat reported that this together partners from 5 EU Member states (Italy, Spain, and France) and developed services and on line tools in order promotion of economic innovation. The partnership is broad university, foundations, cooperatives and public authorities.

Barka foundation for mutual help (PL) *"recognises and helps develop the potential of the socially excluded individuals and also enables those who have successfully overcome their social problems to support others in need, following the philosophy of mutual help"*. Dagmara Szlandrowicz reported that nowadays Barka mobilizes more than 5000 people and over 200 Centres of Social Integration and 400 social cooperatives were established in Poland. Barka *"rehabilitates the excluded individuals socially and vocationally through a community, education and entrepreneurship"*. Barka develops public-private partnerships in Poland and abroad.



Not all applicants managed to participate in the meeting; they nevertheless deserve to be mentioned, as they are rich of very good ideas and practices!

The **Société coopérative d'intérêt collectif Gâtinais Bois Energie** (FR) promotes a correct use of energy by carrying out diagnosis on energy production and consumption, as well as activities of awareness. The most adapted means for doing it was considered to be a Social Cooperative of Collective Interest, that is a partnership made of public authorities, social economy organizations, businesses and trade unions.

The **Casa Colvera** (IT) *"represents a positive experience of social housing for elderly people"* that was carried out thanks to the commitment of the Regional Authority of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the City of Pordenone and the FAI social cooperative. *"The project is not a mere client centered one but an organising-together approach, based on mutual respect and autonomy"*.

The **Global Grant – Small Subsidies** is an initiative by Apulia Region (IT) for proper management of ESF funds. The Region reacted to a demand of the regional cooperative movement, that supported the initiative by creating a strong synergy between different funds. Indeed, the mutual funds for cooperation (of the cooperative movement) gathered in order to capitalize the cooperatives benefiting of the Global Grant.

The **Fondazione di Comunità di Messina – Distretto Sociale Evoluto** (IT) is an example of social economy-led open partnership aimed at re-shaping the local welfare system, by re-defining the concept of "public" on the basis of ideas of solidarity, mutualism, participation, responsibility and democracy. The outstanding partnership is made of social economy players, public health authorities, local business associations and alternative and ethical financial institutions.

The **Fondazione Dopo di Noi** (IT) is a partnership of 30 public authorities, social economy organizations, among which production organizations and advocacy organizations, that signed the common Charter of the Foundation. Thus the Fondazione was able to start a process to emancipate disabled persons from a system of passive care.

The **Private Leasing and Retrofit of Private Houses**, by Carbery Housing Association (IRL), is an example of concrete partnership between the association and the Cork County Council, based on a clear distinction of roles that allowed Carbery Association to apply new concepts of insulation at the same time as concept of self-housing.

The **Initiative for Social Economy Spółdzielnia** (PL) was created by an original partnership between the

Municipal Social Welfare Institution of Lublin, the United Nations Development Programme and a Social Cooperative. Such a partnership allowed to make the concept of social economy a popular one in the Region and to start cross-sectoral cooperation as a new and more effective form of local governance.

Lubaczów our place to live (PL) is a local partnership created by the City of Lubaczów, the Social Welfare Office, the Employment Office, civil society organizations and the forests' inspectorate. This partnership allowed to start a variety of social initiatives in the field of job integration through vocational training and through the creation of an enabling context.

The **Malopolska Pact for Social Economy** (PL) counts 40 signatories among local and regional authorities and social economy organizations (including NGOs). The pact aims at promoting the idea of social economy and strengthen the entities involved in this field. A main focus of the pact is the improvement of the environment for social economy in the region.

The **Programme of cooperation between the City of Torun and social economy organisations** (PL) is a partnership by the Cistos social partnership society and involving the City of Torun and the City of Leiden (NL). The aim of the partnership is to strengthen the capacity of the City of Torun to cooperate with social economy organizations and to increase the participation of the latter in the implementation of public policies.

The **Social Economy Support System of Malopolska** (PL) is an example of partnership created in the framework of EU structural funds' operational programme in order to promote and support the development of social economy organizations. The System is set in the framework of the Pact for Social Economy.

The **Social Economy helping Institution** (PL) is a model of partnership between public administration and NGOs aimed at helping social enterprises to grow up.

The **Coompanions local and regional partnerships** (SE) in Gothenburg and Västra Götaland are catalysts of partnerships with the local authorities in the area. Such partnerships play an essential role in providing counseling and sophisticated services for the creation and development of social enterprises.

About REVES

REVES is the European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy, based on local partnerships between Local/Regional Authorities and Social and Solidarity Economy organizations.

Since 1996, REVES stands for the improvement of quality of life and quality of democracy by supporting policy-making, policy experimentation and social innovation in different fields connected to local welfare, local (socially) sustainable development, local development, international cooperation and all other matters relating to general and community interest.

Local and regional authorities and social and solidarity economy organizations join REVES in order to:

- **be closer and more involved in the process of creation of European norms and programmes directly or indirectly relating or affecting partnership between public powers and social and solidarity economy, for a more just, inclusive, participatory and responsible Europe**
- **be part of a network of social innovation, sharing, mutualisation and exchange in the fields related to (social) general and community interest**
- **benefit from the expertise of a large network of competencies in different areas, including the**



concrete application of EU rules to partnership and to social economy development, as well as to local governance of socio-economic processes

For more information on REVES and how to join : www.revesnetwork.eu or office@revesnetwork.eu



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