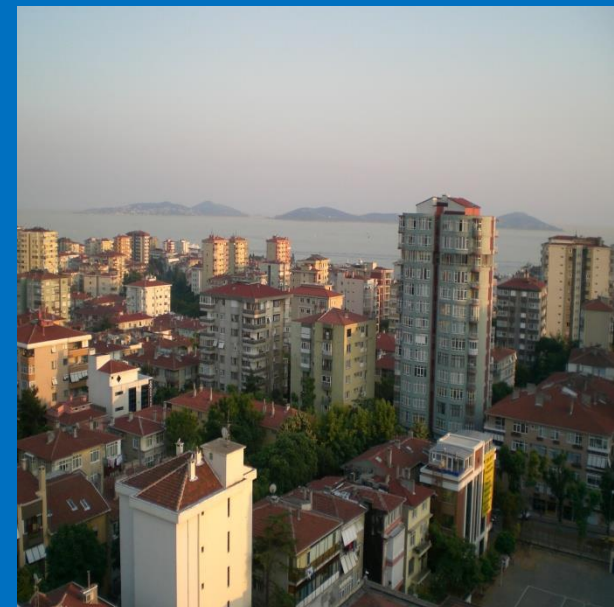
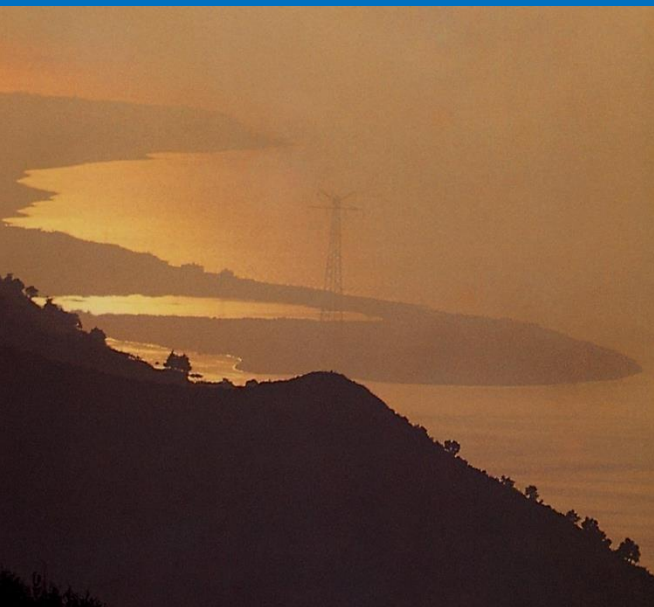


European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES aisbl)



EUROPEAN DAY OF SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES 2018
“THE ROLE OF CLUSTERS AND REGIONS IN SCALING UP“

4 JUNE 2018

Social economy and cluster processes

Clusters have to serve a territory! How can they do that?

The value clusters could have in promoting not only economic activities, but also aspects of social inclusion is fairly underestimated!

Social economy is predestined for the creation of clusters using and developing the potential of territories: principles of cooperation, solidarity, local development (service to the local community), networks...

I. Social economy clusters as a result of citizen initiatives/bottom-up initiatives



Fondazione Horcynus Orca (Messina, IT)

- ⇒ Who: two universities (Messina and Reggio Calabria), the CNR (national research centre), ECOSMED (a social cooperative) and a number of local associations and social initiatives
- ⇒ Objective: promote social cohesion in the area through art and culture
- ⇒ created, inter alia: Cultural Park of Capo Peloro, Museum of Contemporary Art Horcynus Orca, research maritime centre of the Strait of Messina, theatre Politeama of Reggio Calabria, Festival of Mediterranean Cinema of the Strait, ...



Photo: commons.wikimedia.org

Pfefferwerk Foundation (Berlin, DE):

- ⇒ project launched by different groups of citizens (artists, single citizens/inhabitants, SMEs ...) in the Eastern part of Berlin
- ⇒ objective: establish a socio-cultural centre on the terrain of an old brewery/regeneration of the neighbourhood/employment creation/social cohesion
- ⇒ creation of a number of different enterprises/organisations
 - establishment of the foundation (with the terrain as capital)

II. Social economy clusters promoted by (programmes of) public authorities



www.infoentrepriseslr.fr

REALIS (Languedoc-Roussillon, FR)

- ⇒ Objective: foster social innovation, encourage the development of socially innovative and profitable enterprise projects
- ⇒ set-up by Languedoc-Roussillon region in cooperation with social economy (URSCOP, CRES, AVISE)
- ⇒ combines different (existing) initiatives: social business incubators, management school for executives and managers of social businesses, business convention (organisation of meetings, conventions, exhibitions etc.)



Photo: Coopcity

Coopcity (Brussels, BE)

- ⇒ Objective: promote social and cooperative entrepreneurship in the Brussels-Capital region and create a favorable eco-system for the sector
- ⇒ Who: SAW-B, Febecoop, Impulse, Solvay, Ichech, Job Yourself and Innoviris
- ⇒ Programmes: SEEDS (start-ups), BLOSSOM (developing existing initiatives/promote cooperation), POLLINIZE (multi-actor projects), INNOVATE (experimentation)
- ⇒ cooperation with SMart

III. Social economy cluster processes joint by public authorities



Photo: Centre Social de Sants

Impuls Cooperatiu de Sants (Barcelona, ES)

- ⇒ Objective: strengthen cooperation and solidarity; mobilise different local players and the population around new projects serving local development
- ⇒ Who: 20 social economy structures from different fields: culture (bookshop, printing companies, cinemas, concert halls), gastronomy/food (bars, beer production), community services (carpentry, cleaning, architecture, renovation...), education, language learning, agroecological food, computer programming, etc
- ⇒ Activities: training, Coòpolis (promoting new cooperative start-ups and creating jobs in already existing cooperatives) developing projects of cooperation between different enterprises/organisations, awareness-raising and creation of spaces for public debate, ...

“Wish list” (not exhaustive...):

- Need for a general recognition of the added value of clustering with social objectives (also for a city/region)/greater ‘system thinking’
⇒ Rethinking the cluster concept (Ivan Miró: “local cooperative ecosystems”)
- Adapting legislation/policy measures/programmes (e.g. promoting cooperation and cluster processes through public procurement; future cohesion policy...)
- Support for *experimentation* of cluster/mutualisation processes
- Visibility
- ...

Thank you very much!

www.revesnetwork.eu

office@revesnetwork.eu

- *Facebook: REVES aisbl*