

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

Newsletter #13



"A network for your social economy vision"

Contents:

1. The 29th SFE CEFEC Conference-reminder (p. 2)
2. Events participation (p. 2-4)
3. 2016 Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (p. 5)
4. New Projects applied (p. 5)

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1. The 29th SFE CEFEC Conference - reminder

- The 29th Annual European Conference of SFE CEFEC „Social Economy and Mental Health” will take place in Łódź (Poland) on **22-23 September 2016**. The conference will create a unique opportunity for European social entrepreneurs and NGOs active in the field of social economy to share professional knowledge and experience and show the social impact of social enterprises focusing on vocational integration of people with mental health problems. Participants will also discuss the challenges that social firm sector is facing and look together for solutions of the common issues that arise when creating valuable workplaces for vulnerable people. The Conference organizing committee has prepared an interesting agenda included in the **Conference program**: plenary sessions, a number of workshops and study visits in local social enterprises.

For more details please contact the Conference Organizers: registration@29cefecconference.pl or SFE CEFEC Secretariat: socialfirmseurope@gmail.com, phone: +41 62 957 20 41, website: www.29cefecconference.pl and www.socialfirmseurope.org



29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL FIRMS EUROPE CEFEC
22-23 SEPTEMBER 2016, ŁÓDŹ, POLAND
WWW.29CEFECCONFERENCE.PL

2. Events participation

- SFE CEFEC General Secretary, Petru Vasile Gafiuc, was invited on the 5th of July 2016 to participate in a conference in Zagreb, Croatia, by our SFE CEFEC member CeDePe - Association of persons with cerebral palsy and polio. This visit was a great opportunity to present our network and



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activities at the Final Conference for STARTUP project, financed by European Social Fund. At this conference attended young social entrepreneurs, most of them in wheelchair, and to find more activities about our member in Croatia together with representatives of Croatian Labor Ministry, EDF Croatia, NESSt Croatia, ACT Grupa and URIHO. The main message of this conference was to support the employment through social enterprise. Congratulation to CeDePe organization for supporting social economy through self-employment.

- The SFE CEFEC member **Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health** from Greece together with a group of volunteers “**Solidarity Network of Kallithea**” organized and provided free Art activities for children of vulnerable families: i.e. poor, migrants, single parent families etc.



- Also **Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health** implements **Art and Therapy projects** through drama therapy and dance therapy for example, regarding the fight for stigma and to support the social integration of people with mental health problems.



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- The representative of **Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health, Mrs. Athena Frangouli**, participated at the **5th Transnational Meeting** in “**DSH – Positive Choice**” project, in the period 27 June – 5 July 2016. **The mobility was organized and hosted by the organization AREAS** and had a series of trainings for trainers and teachers who are working with teens. **DSH Positive Choices** is an Erasmus+ project coordinated by Plymouth & District Mind Association (PADMA), United Kingdom. It addresses a known cause of social exclusion (with progression pathways to early school leaving and low achievement): Alexithymia and Deliberate Self Harm.



- **SFE CEFEC member AREAS and Šentprima organization** are involved in an ERASMUS+ project **Community Champion Training Programme, CCTP**. The first meeting was in Plymouth, UK, on 26 April 2016, hosted by lead partner Plymouth & District Mind Association – PADMA. **Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc, the general secretary of SFE CEFEC**, together with the **director of Šentprima, Mrs. Jana Ponikvar**, will be involved in this Erasmus+ project for 3 years, which has the objective of promoting work-based learning in all its forms, with special attention to apprenticeship-type training, by involving social partners, companies and VET providers, as well as stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship.



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3. 2016 Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

- The SFE CEFEC general secretary Mr. Petru Vasile Gafiuc together with Mr. Ovidiu Tuduruta delegate of SFE CEFEC and Chair of the EDF Youth Committee participated on the 10th of June at the 2016 Work Forum in Brussels. The Forum brought together representatives of those responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention. It allowed to share experiences on its practical implementation and monitoring and to promote solutions to common challenges. It was organized by the European Commission



and the European Disability Forum. This year, the Work Forum focused on Human Rights approach to disability in implementation strategies, Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through strategies and Social protection and adequate standard of living.

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4. New projects applied

- *Development of Effective Community Services in the Area of Education and Social Welfare at the Local Level* is the newest project applied on 15th July 2016 with a collaborator from Republic of Serbia and SFE CEFEC as a partner, financed by EU Funded Programs. The applicant is the **Union of organizations of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) of Serbia - USOP**. The main objective is to enhance social inclusion of PLHIV, former drug users and persons with disabilities and sustainability of existing support services provided by CSOs to these groups. The budget of the project is 150.000 euros.

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