

## **Solecopedia**

the shared international encyclopedia for solidarity and social economy

**Social economy, solidarity economy, community development... there is a general expression of the need to think and implement a different kind of economic activity.**

But the actors often use different terms from one country to another, even if the principles and the values are similar. The wealth of practice and concepts of social and solidarity economy are both a challenge for building cohesion and a recognition of its existence.

### ***A space for sharing and disseminating social and solidarity economy concepts and practices***

Solecopedia is an open multilingual intercultural encyclopaedia based on the participation of actors and researchers in the social and solidarity economy sector in many different countries. The work process is collaborative and participatory, and is moderated by a team of intercultural professional moderators.

Its aim is to help actors gain a better mutual understanding of each other. It hopes to overcome the communication problems that exist between different languages and different sectors through exchanging views and thoughts on the words that are most frequently used.

### ***A collaborative and participatory way of working***

A simplified platform (Wiki) allows all actors to upload and comment the main terms used in their practice in their own language. It is already operational in 5 languages: French, English, Spanish, German and Portuguese; other languages can be added as needed. The links between languages and comments allow people to develop a grasp of the subtleties, while strengthening the shared ground.



## ***Complementarities with other ongoing projects***

Solecopedia is part of a number of current initiatives aimed at developing a reference framework and mapping the companies and initiatives whose values are those of this economic alternative. By providing the possibilities to exchange on the ideas and values involved, Solecopedia hopes to contribute to the overall coherence of the process. We are currently working to identify and contact the authors of existing glossaries and dictionaries in the field of social and solidarity economy, and hope to include them under a Creative Commons licence.

We are also contacting the key actors in the main countries in Western Europe, North and Latin America; we are of course open to exchange with other continents. The links to the dynamics of reference frameworks and mapping are largely thanks to our team's participation in the RIPESS Europe "communication" group.

## **Participation in an international research-action network**

Solecopedia is the first product of the Lexis project – Intercultural lexicon tools for social and solidarity economy. It also aims to develop an international thesaurus, conceptual mapping and support the understanding of the different types of organisations and identification of activities of the the different networks of actors in this sector.

Many different actors in the field of social and solidarity economy have already expressed their interest. The project has also been financially supported by Aloé, the international network of research-action on social and solidarity economy. You can read more about the Lexis project by going to:

[http://aloe.socioeco.org/projet.php3?id\\_rubrique=66&lang=en](http://aloe.socioeco.org/projet.php3?id_rubrique=66&lang=en).

## ***The Lexis project team***

The team is composed of professionals with many years experience of moderation in intercultural communication. They have been involved in social and solidarity economy projects in many different countries and are members of European networks that will contribute to the Solecopedia contents.

Pierre Johnson, project co-ordinator

Researcher in ecological economy and consultant, WFTO associate member. Specialist in international trade, Fair Trade, and sustainable development. He was the creator of the first international fair trade social network in 2000.

Judith Hitchman, consultant, interpreter and intercultural mediator.

One of the initiators of intercultural management in business in the 1970s; joint editor of the International Newsletter for Sustainable Local Development, with Yvon Poirier (Quebec) and Martine Theveniaut (France).

## **Contact**

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