



ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

Making SSE visible and strengthen the SSE Ecosystem
Supporting individuals, groups and networks

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate our course for 2020 with reference to all activities of Dock. We are a non-profit organization of six members with a cooperative structure, initially formed in 2015 from 12 young people active in Social Solidarity Economy sector and officially founded in 2017. Our mission is to contribute to the visibility of SSE in Greece by organizing public events and congresses, to empower SSE enterprises and initiatives by providing constant information, educational programs, business support, seminars and tools but also through networking for collaborations with other ventures.



We believe that SSE is an alternative of organizing economy and society based on the values of Solidarity, Sustainability and Social Justice. An economy whose profit is the social result it generates. Our perspective for SSE is that of an economic model that incorporates initiatives organized on the basis of collective ownership,

management and work with democratic decisions and control. A model orientated on human and social needs, a local development with social and environmental balance.

Referring to the Greek SSE ecosystem, Dock is still the only supporting infrastructure that combines the claims and needs of the SSE social-movement in a professional and scientific setting continuously. In that direction we created a model that allows us to become a professional support structure by providing almost all our services free of charge while we try to bond the “entrepreneurial dimension” with the “social- political dimension” of one transformative SSE. Unfortunately, for the collectives engaged at the SSE concept and practices while they are not following the “market orientation” only, they have no financial capacity to grow and develop, in contrast to “start-up hubs” that receive support from Banks, embassies, business funds. In that context and in combination with the feedback received from the SSE field, we considered it as our call and responsibility to keep on going with our work.

This activity report has been conducted by the three legal representatives of Dock



Georgia Bekridaki



Elena Tzamouranou

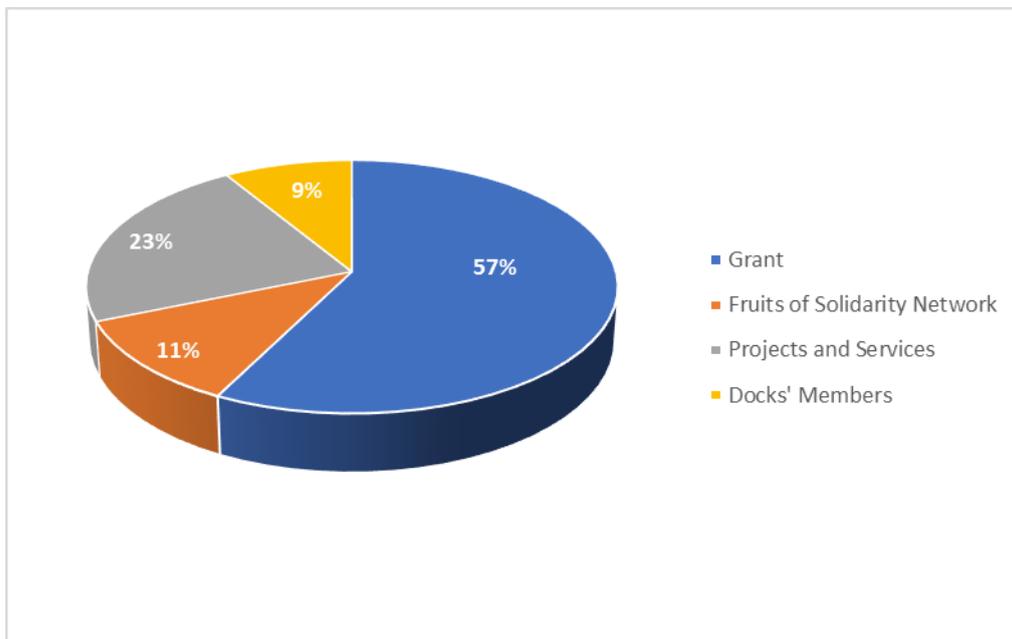


Maria Britzolaki

2020

Although 2020 started as a very promising year for the SSE ecosystem in Greece in general and us in particular, it proved to become the most challenging year. The outburst of the pandemic, the economic challenges of every small-scaled economic entity, our internal changes, the second wave of the pandemic and the insecurity for the future it brought to the society at large and the SSE ecosystem in particular, made it hard not only to respond to the circumstances but also to keep up the progress made so far. In the support Center, we continue to use 1,5 working position more, than the available grant offers. Four members of us are working daily part time, while we also employed one-person full time⁶, 4 of them officially.

All below described activities of 2020 were financed through four sources of income: the grant provided by the Ministry of Labour – Social Economy Secretary (57%), the Fruits of Solidarity Network contribution to Dock (11%), our Projects and Services (23%) as well as and from the contribution of the members of Dock in extra working hours (9%). The percentages are illustrated bellow:



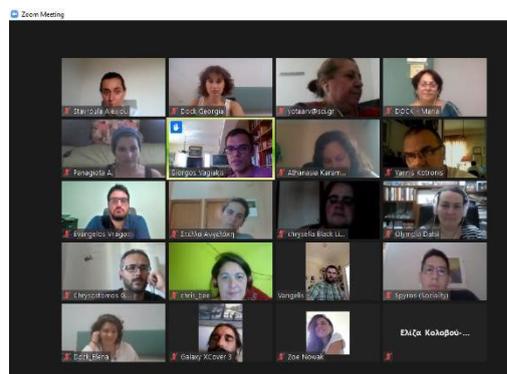
⁶ Four person are official employed, one unofficial.

Supporting individuals & groups

With reference to the support for individuals and groups, our objectives were limited to a single one: to do whatever possible to help existing entities keeping up and holding a perspective for new ones to build up.



Unless some drastic change happens in December, we expect to close the year with **400 unique cases handled** (approx. 100 cases per 3 months). Before the outburst of the pandemic, we managed to hold **nine public events and thematic workshops**, media campaigns and continued to disseminate news and good practices about SSE through our channels. **Dock is getting recognized as the main source for information for SSE and cooperative topics all over the country.**



With the outburst of the pandemic, we managed to **digitalize** every procedure and service provided in a professional manner using **open-source platforms** where possible. We also gave relevant advice and training to any interested part.

Covid 19



**Μέτρα και
ρυθμίσεις για
φορείς Κ.Α.Ο**

A need emerged for documentation for topics related to SSE and especially for **covid- measures** for the SSE ventures. In addition, we supported various SSE actors to submit **proposals to receive state's support**. We mobilized accountants, lawyers, and people active in submitting for funds to inform and train us properly.

We worked closer with six ventures in 2020, we addressed five of them through the training and coaching process (at least 20 hours) while one went through a 10-month support service:



Name: Syn Allois



Name: Kafeneio Akadimias Platonos

About: The group of 6 people are one of the oldest and well-known SSE cooperatives in Greece. They hold a grocery store, processed fair trade coffee and import and trade fair trade labeled products from all over the world. Syn Allois is the first Greek entity in becoming a licensed WFTO partner.

The challenge: How can a group functioning for 10 years get more organized, growing its effectiveness and efficiency to enter a more responsible and sustainable era?

The focus of our support: Training and Coaching on Development Strategy, Impact, Sustainability, Business Organization, Management and Marketing

About: Although this well-known and oldest SSE place is part of an NGO run by 10 people, it is functioning at a voluntary basis as a café, meeting place and event spot. Kafeneio has a huge social impact on its neighborhood empowering and building relations based on the principles of SSE.

The challenge: How can a voluntary group of activists transform into a cooperative model and run the place more professional, but at the same time keep their character?

The focus of our support: Training and coaching on Entrepreneurship, Economic Sustainability, Marketing, Cooperatism and Collaborations



Name: Rokani

About: The group of 5 professionals create upcycled furniture and other specialized constructions from recycled materials. This SSE venture is well-known for its collaborations, its advocacy in circular economy and political activity in the ecosystem of SSE. Yet not all members are contributing equally to the management and non-financial activities of the venture.

The challenge: How can a group that is focusing on the daily basis function develop a strategy for the future and address all management and non-financial activities more collectively?

The focus of our support: It is still at an early stage of our support service



Name: Magic Kitchen of Exarcheia

About: The group of 5 people from 3 different countries (Greece, Turkey and Afghanistan) are about to open a take away ethic cuisine restaurant in the heard of Athens. Magic



Name: REfeel

About: The group of 4 people aim to address the issue of packaging in cleaning products and cosmetics. The group wants to provide cleaning products and cosmetics in bulk form

Kitchen is going to address the issues of multiculturalism, healthy food, ecology, and fair trade.

The challenge: How can a diverse group with language barriers and little knowledge about the Greek reality transform into a SSE venture?

The focus of our support: Training and Coaching on SSE in Greece, How to set up and run a business in Greece, Economic Sustainability and Marketing in SSE

while customers should bring their own package (they already addressed BIO.ME for that matter).

The challenge: How can a group of people that have various relations between them transform into a responsible and sustainable SSE venture?

The focus of our support: It is still at an early stage of our support service



Name: Nostos

About: The group of 5 people is in a very small village in Messinia (Magkaniako). The group is active in reviving their village through cultural events and economic activity that respects the people, the culture and the nature of the land. They provide products produced with traditional methods (figs, olives, olive oil, and mushrooms) but also walking, hiking tours, other leisure, and cultural experiences.

The challenge: How can a group with no relative knowledge or experience, which members also live in two different cities grow into a case study of SSE and Fair Trade?

The focus of our support: we worked closely with the group for about 10 months, providing training and coaching on SSE and Fair Trade, hands on in forming a dedicated strategy, business model and a 12-month action plan. We also helped them forming their legal status, become an SSE venture, and introduced them to the ecosystem and market of SSE in Greece.

Supporting the SSE ecosystem

Concerning the visibility of SSE and the ecosystem of SSE in Greece, our main objectives for 2020 were to continue the activities of previous years⁷ and participate with a Greek delegation in the World Social Forum of Transformative Economies originally planned to take place in June 2020 in Barcelona. As mentioned, the pandemic urged us to act more spontaneously as planned. Some of the main activities are:

Developments on activities from previous years includes : Dock became vice president of the Association of the digital platform kalomathe.gr, we translated texts, campaigns on SSE as transformative economy, relations with social movements etc and we participated in Synergy for common funding tools with other SSE actors.

We participated in the Cloud Project: a collective effort to create commons- designed infrastructure for common use at the public space by SSE actors and grassroots initiatives <https://www.cloudsforcommons.org/about>

During the first wave of Covid-19, we participated at “Menoumemazi.gr” campaign in order to support solidarity activities. We supported the dissemination of 3D printing face masks to the hospitals in the period March – May 2020 <https://menoumemazi.org/information-in-other-lang/>

Constant and persistent advocacy to the Ministry of Labor to include SSE ventures in the Covid-measures and financial support, which were originally excluded.

We participated at VIOME fundraising campaign for re-connection of the Electricity. We provided both financial and communication support. VIOME reach the target and bought generator.

There is a compulsory measure for distance learning for all children in Greece (5 – 18) at the time being (second wave of Covid-19). We participate in a campaign with other SSE initiatives to mobilize and collect technological equipment (tablets, laptops, cameras, microphones) for children that do not have any.



⁷ Networking activities, public events for knowledge exchange and pointing out the transformative elements, cooperation with nationwide newspaper



Projects and Services

We continued to implement the VET2 and the EmploySSE project while we also realized two more smaller projects. In more detail:

We participated as experts in the Erasmus+ project BUSSE: Building Up SSE. The program is a strategic collaboration of SSE actors for the development of innovation and exchange of good practices, while aiming to disseminate SSE practices and activities, providing relevant knowledge, skills and competences. BUSSE developed an innovative 4-module training program and relevant supporting material for both, trainers and trainees (<https://ripess.eu/en/busse-building-up-sse/>).

We organized two online 50-hour training program, which concerned the Creation of a Social Solidarity Economy Entity: From idea to readiness. The program aimed at young people up to 29 years old who were unemployed and who do not attended another education or training program (<https://dock.zone/anakoinoseis-infopoint/programma-epimorfosis-stin-k-a-l-o-apo-tin-idea-stin-etoimotita-2/>).