



ACTIVITY REPORT

2017

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 2017 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



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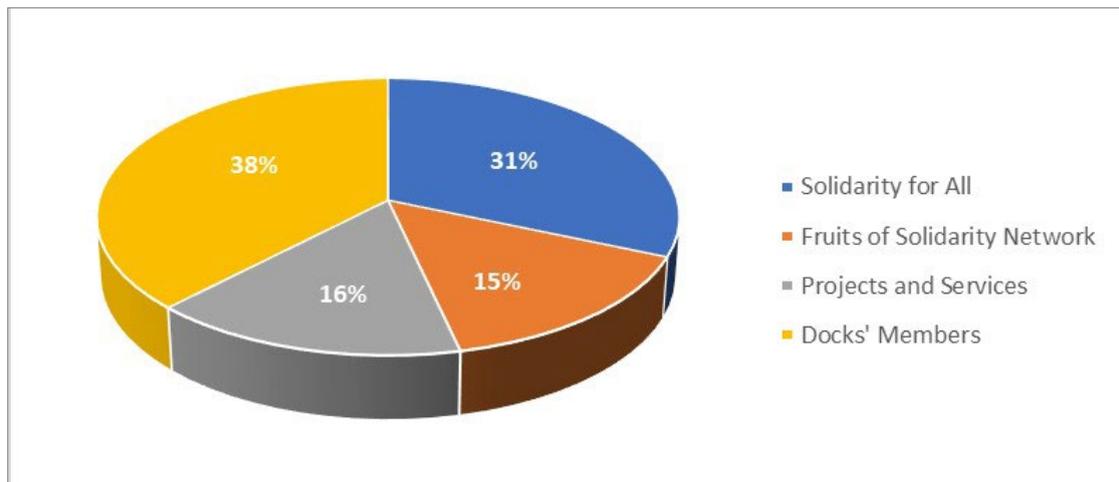


Maria Britzolaki

2017

In 2017, the non-formal group of 12 people working for SSE within “Solidarity for All” organization finally transformed to an autonomous nonprofit organization (legally) with cooperative model operationally. We rent a space to host all activities and public events on social solidarity economy while five members of the group were working daily part time. Naturally, we had to transform its internal organization of governance and management to fit the new era, while started at the same time to develop collaborations, services and coaching sessions according to the SSE needs assessment for Athens ecosystem executed at the same time.

All below described activities of 2017 were financed through four sources of income: a supporting amount from our ex-organization Solidarity for All (31%), the Fruits of Solidarity Network contribution to Dock (15%), our Projects and Services (16%) as well as and from the contribution of the members of Dock in extra working hours (38%). The percentages are illustrated bellow:



Supporting individuals & groups

In terms of supporting individuals and groups to engage in SSE, but also support SSE entities, we began to structure our information and support system which was accessible to all interested and free of charge. The main objectives for 2017 was to start running the information point of SSE on a daily basis, to give professional advice and support in relation with the law on SSE and to grow the understanding and knowledge base about SSE and subject related to it e.g about cooperates. In that manner, our main outcomes for 2017 are described below:



Our Infopoint for SSE run at a **20 hours per week** basis. It provided information about SSE and support to daily institutional tasks of cooperatives. The Infopoint was **the only spot in 2017 run formally, systematic and professional.**



We published four guides on the new national law on SSE. Those e-Publications became **one of the main sources on understanding the law.** At the same time, we started to organize related seminars at the workplace of coops.



In order to **grow the understanding and knowledge on SSE**, we started to collect and select resources about it. We created an **online space** for hosting book titles, essays and research for SSE available to all.

Supporting the SSE ecosystem

Besides the support to individual and groups, in order to make SSE visible and strengthen the ecosystem of SSE in Greece, our main objective for 2017 was to participate in as many events, festivals, fora and networking activities as possible. Some of the main activities are:

Dock initiated the non-formal Fruits of Solidarity Network (FoSN) to promote products of Greek cooperatives abroad through movements and collectives of active citizens. FoNS for us is a practice of creating an alternative supply chain based on the principles of Social Solidarity Economy (SSE), while it contributes financial at the same time to the non-profit purpose and activities of Dock. Campaigns where organized in 2017 in four countries (Belgium, Holland, Germany and Luxemburg) (<https://fruitsofsolidarity.gr/>).

We became member of Ripess Europe and participate at the Coordination Committee of it since 2017. Ripess is the European network of the Social Solidarity Economy organizations (part of the RIPESS Intercontinental network), bringing together over 40 national, sectoral and inter-sectoral networks in several European countries. It aims to share practices, inter-cooperate and engage in joint actions that can promote and enhance the visibility of the Solidarity Economy movement and contribute to legal frameworks and public policies (<https://www.ripest.eu/>).

We participated in two assemblies of the Panhellenic Network of Social Solidarity Economy Cooperatives (SSE Coops GR). The SSE Coops GR was an effort to coordinate and create a space for meeting, exchange of practices, collaborations and self-institutionalization that will promote the cause of SSE throughout society. Although the network does not exist today, we grow ties and continue to collaborate with many of the 64 participating initiatives and groups (<http://ssecoops.blogspot.com/p/email.html>).

In 2017 started also our permanent cooperation with a nationwide newspaper for promoting the concept and cases of SSE. "Editors' Newspaper" hosted also articles on Fruits of Solidarity, Modousa and Greenland throughout the years of collaboration (<https://www.efsyn.gr/>).

Finally yet most importantly, was the organization of the 4th European Congress for Social Solidarity Economy – UniverSSE which took place in Athens between 9 and 11 June. Fifty groups from abroad as well as 300 entities from Greece took part in a rich schedule that consisted of 46 talks (31 panels, workshops, 4 assemblies and networking meetings). We were the main initiator and organization actor in the eight months of intense preparation of the biggest SSE related event in Greece until today (<https://universse2017.org/>).



Projects and Services

We design, develop and implement programs and services that help us gain further knowledge and experience to strengthen the ecosystem of SSE at a local, national and European level. With regard to the projects and services in 2017 we co-organized the first EXPO of SSE in Athens, and run several seminars and workshops and participated as research affiliate in the Erasmus+ project SSE.E IVET: Social and Solidarity Economy in Europe: affirming a new paradigm through IVET curricula innovation.

The first EXPO of SSE organized by the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity included 150 Social Cooperative Enterprises, Workers' Cooperatives, Limited Liability Social Cooperatives and organizations of Social Solidarity Economy, representing all productive sectors of the Greek economy and all regions of the country. The three-day exhibition also featured social entrepreneurship seminars, workshops of SSE for their better networking and field development but also panel discussions (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2353115841580925/>).

The SSE.E IVET project aims to affirm the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Europe through IVET curricula innovation, specifically in existing professional profiles of economics, management, financial and social area. Its inspiring vision is a comprehensive training and professional development of younger generations, which integrates alternative socio-economic models in their framework of ideas and attitudes (<https://ripess.eu/en/ivet-and-sse/>).

