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Solidarity Economy Europe
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

19-21 SEPTEMBER 2023

LA BERGERIE DE VILLARCEAUX (PARIS)

PARTICIPANT'S INFOPACK





CONTENTS

1. Welcome to the 12th General Assembly meeting !
2. How to get
3. La Bergerie de Villarceaux
4. GA Programme
5. GA Statutory meeting
6. Working groups
7. Participants check-list



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1) Welcome, members and all participants!

This year the RIPESS EU – Solidarity Economy Europe network will organize the Annual General Assembly meeting of the members from the **19th to 21st of September 2023**. This event will be held at the **Bergerie de Villarceaux** (near Paris, France) in the ecological farm that the **Foundation for the Progress of Humankind** (FPH) makes available to the organizations it supports.

We expect this meeting to be an **opportunity to deepen our discussions on the social solidarity economy through peer-to-peer methods**. At the same time, we aim to better organize all the activities implemented by the Network by strengthening the possibilities for member engagement and cooperation among members and their networks.

In this info-pack you will find the **program and the different aspects and themes we will be discussing**. Of course, new ideas and contributions are welcome and we will have the possibility to discuss them both formally and informally, in the **inter-cooperation and convivial time** during the three days.

The first day is dedicated to Ripess Europe as a Network and as an agent of transformation. The session will focus on what has been done since the last GA (in Wroclaw, Poland - September 2022), in the framework of our triennial strategy. The Statutory assembly will have the illustration of the activity and financial reports, the presentation of new members, of candidates for the renewal of the coordination committee, and of the networks we actively engage with, so members can verify and discuss about the initiatives and organization progress. This part of the program is of great importance in terms of clarity and transparency on one hand and members activation in different levels on the other.

The second day is more focused on Networks strategical values and orientations for the next years, on SSE priorities at the moment, on organisational aspects such as working groups activation and open space so the members collectively share their projects and activities. Highlight of the day will be the Renewal of the Charter of Principles: Since SSE aims at articulating & formulating alternative paths for economy and social relations in general, we assume that is important to update main values and principles to be in compliance with the critical issues SSE addresses, today. Do we need to add or to prioritize specific principles? Do we need to link policies and campaigns accordingly? These are some questions members will elaborate in a world cafe session.

The third day, the Ripess Europe General Assembly will welcome representatives of Alliance and Affiliate organizations in an open discussion about **“The Europe we need, the Europe we want: Joining forces to raise our voices”**. During this session, different networks will draw common values and paths of transformation in order to achieve a better institutional recognition of SSE and other transformative movements. Furthermore, building communities of trust between different actors is not just a tool for SSE visibility but a goal as well!

In this particularly welcoming place, which puts into practice the concern to preserve regenerating living spaces, the Villarceaux meeting will also be an opportunity for more informal exchanges and celebrations as we build and strengthen our network and alliances.

Welcome and enjoy!

The RIPESS Europe Coordination committee and GA team

2) La Bergerie de Villarceaux



The **Bergerie de Villarceaux** is located in the Vexin Français regional nature park in a rural area. It is located at Chaussy, municipality of Val d'Oise (postal code – 95710). There is no street name since the whole place is called “la Bergerie”. GPS generally recognizes the location “**La Bergerie – 95710 Chaussy**”.

The Sheepfold of Villarceaux (La Bergerie de Villarceaux) gathers **social and economic organisations working for the sustainable development of Villarceaux**. The Bergerie’s territory (600 hectares) and its landscape have been converted to **organic farming** at the beginning of the 21st century. The transitions’s aim was to try out a more autonomous farming system, based on a better complementarity between livestock and crops. The parc of Villarceaux also has a castle, which can be visited during the daytime.

Your stay at la Bergerie

The estate’s old farmhouse has recently been refurbished to bring it in line with environmental and sustainable standards, including the uses of natural insulation materials, wood heating, solar panels, rainwater collection, natural purification through lagooning, etc. The Bergerie’s Oecocenter includes rural guest-houses, group guest-houses, meeting and training rooms, and an organic and locally sourced restaurant. Our members and guests will be hosted in shared rooms.

More information here: www.bergerie-villarceaux.org

3) How to get there: logistics and local transportation

Common Meeting point

On **Tuesday 19.09 @ 13.00**, we meet at the train station **Gare de Lyon** - from there, a shuttle bus service will take us to the Bergerie.

If you have no choice but to arrive later or on another day, please write to or info@ripess.eu or contact us (Georgia gebekr@yahoo.gr - mobile: 0030-6977227879 / whatsapp, viber, telegram, signal) with your day/time of arrival in order to help you out.

From Paris airports to Cergy Le Haut

From the **Beauvais airport**, there is a shuttle to Paris-Porte Maillot. Then in Paris, you need to take the RER A to the last stop of the line "**Cergy le Haut**". From there we will pick you up or you will take a taxi.

From the airport of **Roissy CDG and Orly**, you have the Paris main SNCF lines bus system or **RER B**. You can change downtown Paris to get the metro to Gare de Lyon. From the train stations

RER A to Cergy le Haut

You can also directly check your journey to Cergy Le Haut by simulating your itinerary through the following link (parisian public transport network): <https://www.ratp.fr/en/itineraires#no-back>

The trip from downtown Paris to Cergy le Haut is approximately 45 minutes. From Cergy to La Bergerie is another 20/30 minutes.



4) Programme

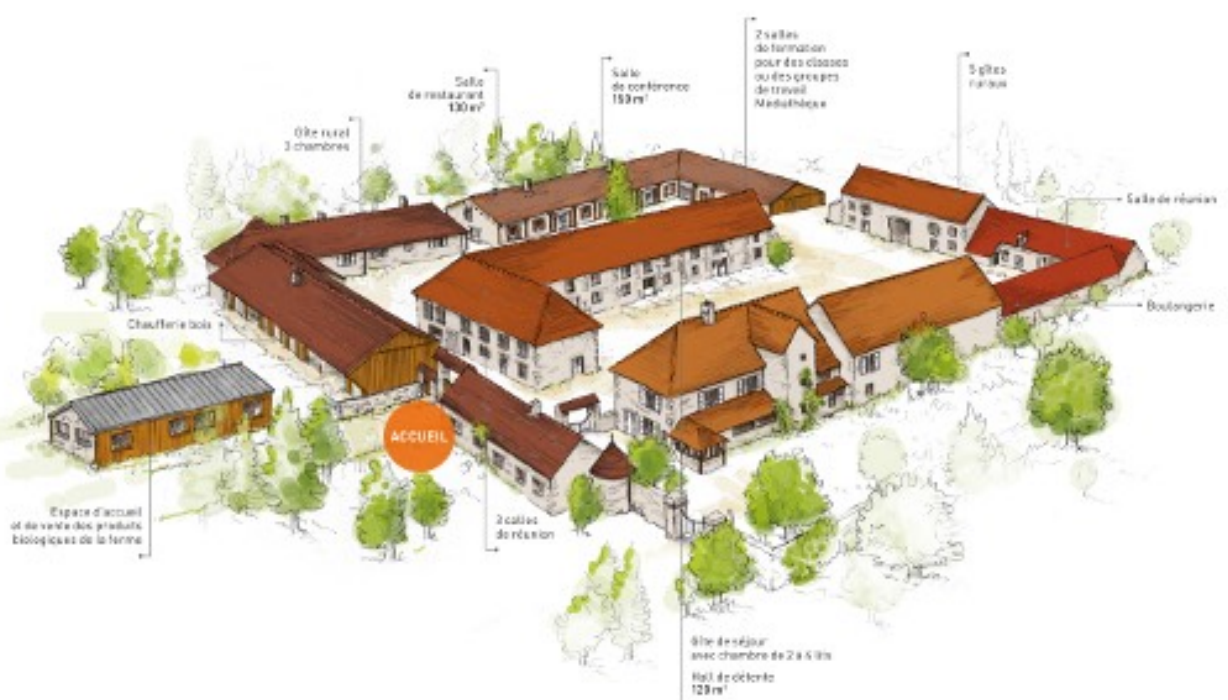
DAY 1	TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2023	
15.00	Arrivals in Cergy Le Haut	
15.30	Bus / shuttle to Villarceaux	
16.00	Arrival to the venue	
17.00 - 17.30	Welcome & getting to know each other	
17.30 - 19.30	<p>Assembly opening Statutory Part:</p> <p>Introduction and Program Presentation</p> <p>Axes of Strategy / Priorities of the Network</p> <p>Activity Report</p> <p>Financial Report</p> <p>Presentation of new members</p> <p>Ripess Intercontinental</p> <p>Scientific committee and Care commission</p> <p>Renewing Coordination committee, CoCo elections</p>	Plenary Session
20.00	Dinner	
21.00 - 22.15	Movie “AlterNativas” & pop corn and more spontaneous events	Cultural event

DAY 2	WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023	
8.00 - 9.00	Breakfast	
9:00 - 9:30	Nature walk	
9:30 - 11.00	Renewing the Charter of Principles	Plenary Session & Work in groups
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break	
11:30 - 13.00	Strategy Action Plan	Plenary Session
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch time	
14:30 - 16.00	<p>Working Groups Session:</p> <p>1. Care commission 2. Public policies, 3. Knowledge sharing and scientific committee, 4. Territorial Cooperation</p>	Work in groups
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee Break	
16.15 - 17.45	<p>Networking an cooperation space:</p> <p>Matchmaking for projects, campaigns and common actions - sharing new ideas</p>	Facilitated activity
17.45 - 18.15	Recap of working groups and networking space	Plenary Session
18:30 - 19.30	Serigraphy workshop: bring your t-shirt!	Art & NetWork
19.30 - 20.30	Dinner	
21.30	Camp Fire! Dancing and more convivial moments	Convivial activity

DAY 3	Thursday 21st September 2023	
8:00- 9.00	Breakfast	
9.00 - 9.30	Warm up	
9.30-11:00	<p><i>“The Europe we need, the Europe we want: Joining forces to raise our voices”.</i></p> <p>Ripess Europe members meet special guests and representatives of allied networks to discuss common advocacy and campaigns at both the local and European levels</p>	Fishbowl round-table
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break	
11.30 - 12.00	Collective Evaluation	Facilitated activity
12.00 - 13.00	Conclusions and next steps	Plenary
13.00	Lunch time	

Departure from Villarceaux will be at 14:00 in order to reach Paris at around 15:30 / 16:00.

Members of Coordination Committee will stay longer for the CoCo meeting, which will be held at the venue on the 21st, from 16.00 to - 19.00.



5) General Assembly – Statutory meeting

The statutory assembly of the network members is the moment when decisions are taken collectively and democratically concerning the life of the association, strategies, investments, forms of representation and governance. This year it will take place on the afternoon of September 19. A second moment, in order to take advantage of the results of the subsequent discussions, especially regarding future perspectives and alliances, will take place at the final session of September 21, where the proposals for additions to the strategic and action plan 2022-2023 will be presented and approved.

The session is introduced by the Co-coordinators. The presentations will follow, by CoCo members and the RIPESS Europe team, in particular on:

- Strategic axes and priorities of the network (based on the [Strategic orientation document 2023-2025](#), prepared by the Coordination Committee and strategy working group and was discussed and revised at the Strategy annual meeting in January 2023).
- Activity report 2022-2023
- Financial report 2022
- Scientific committee
- Care Commission
- Ripess Intercontinental
- New members
- Candidates for the renewal of the Coordination committee

Members will vote according to the [Articles of Association \(statute\)](#) and can represent other members who have delegated them through a proxy vote.

Renewal of the RIPESS Europe Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee (CoCo) is composed of 7 to 15 members elected by the General Assembly, with one main delegate and a secondary one. The mandate is for 3 years. Every year the General Assembly can re-elect one third of its components. The Coordination Committee is open to new members in order to continue its mission of consolidation and expansion of the European network.

The CoCo normally meets once per month online and twice in person: at the beginning of the year to discuss the strategic orientations and planning, and once during the General Assembly meeting. When possible, it is hosted in a different country, invited by the local network actors (members or perspective ones). The CoCo offers the opportunity to actively participate in the governance of the network in a positive and friendly way. The people who are involved in the Coordination committee represent the network in international and European meetings. The members that participate proactively are committed to animate a working group, a project or a priority thematic, involving other members to follow up the strategic and action plan decided in General Assembly. The 2022 report illustrates these activities.

As a member, you are warmly invited to be part of the CoCo. Think and discuss about it with your constituencies and propose your candidature during the next General Assembly. You can familiarise with the existing coordinating group and ask about the activities and

organisation. Please let us know your intentions, so that we can prepare the GA taking into account your application! Please refer to the "[CoCo renewal – Appeal for candidates](#)" document, which was sent to members before the pre-GA online meeting.

The present Coordination Committee components are:

Dražen Šimleša (general coordinator - ZMAG, Croatia), **Ruby Van Der Wekken** (co-coordinator, URGENCI, Finland), **Jason Nardi** (general delegate - RIES, Italy), **Josette Combes** (communication coordinator - MES France), **Bruno Lasnier** (treasurer - MES France), **Eric Lavillunière** (INEES, Luxembourg), **Patricia Coller** and **Laure Hubert-Rodier** (UFISC, France), **Bérénice Dondéyne** (MES Occitanie, France), **Jean Rossiaud** and **Antonin Calderon** (Après-GE, Switzerland), **Constance André-Aigret** (APRES-VD, Switzerland), **Maria Britzolaki** and **Georgia Bekridaki** (DOCK, Greece), **Monika Onyszkiewicz** (Fairtrade Poland), **Olivia Mailfert** (APES, France), **Laura Aufrère** (Scientific Committee).

6) Working groups and Main sessions

While in the past we have created and tried to carry out work through thematic working groups, in the last years it has become apparent that the most fruitful collaborations and activities have been carried out through common projects. For this GA, we are aiming at consolidating the more structural working areas of Ripess Europe, while allowing members to propose and to create discussions with all participants interested. The meetings will be divided in 4 consecutive and parallel sessions, with the possibility of using the 2 feet rule of World Café OSTs.

1. Care commission

The Care Commission, which was established in the last GA as a permanent structure of the Network, is focused on developing training and awareness-raising spaces on care and the implementation of putting life at the center, following the feminist movement approach, trying to translate our principles of the Social Solidarity Economy into our day-to-day practices. In this sense, it is responsible for creating safe spaces for everyone, reviewing our practices, creating more caring and decent work spaces, defining our travel practices, enforcing feminist protocol, welcoming with mentoring new members, etc.

2. Public policies

The public policy group gathers advocacy work and all activities that are focused on implementing SSE values and practices in Public policies. It include: local, regional, national and global level of work. Good SSE public policies can manifest as specific and appropriate laws, strategies for sector strengthening and visibility, but also some action and cooperational plans. The public policy working group can gather could compile all the work that the members actually do and present some strategies for intervention at European Level. The EU developments, such as the European Strategy plan can be an opportunity for discussion, dissemination and negotiations.

3. Knowledge sharing / education and scientific committee

More emphasis will be placed on research, with the strengthening of the Scientific Committee as a research community for SSE and intensified work with universities, research centers and networks (EuroRegen, EMES, CIRIEC, EURICSE, ILO Academy, EPOG+, CES-URBINAT, ECOLISE), participation/co-organization of summer schools, thematic conferences/projects and e-learning activities. In coordination with RIUESS and UCOOP (student cooperatives network) we will develop research and education activities.

4. Territorial Cooperation

Many people and structures cooperate at a territorial scale in urban and rural areas, through the mutualisation of means, collective events, shared-places, collaborative cultural projects, or territorial networks regrouping social & solidarity economy organizations. We experiment cooperative approaches for local development, that are creative, evolving, and innovative. During the workshop, Ufisc will present the results of the CoopTerr project and will initiate the dialogue around the Manifesto “Territorial Cooperation practices through culture and social solidarity economy”.

Here is a brief description of the **main sessions** (during day 2):

Renewing the Charter of Principles

RIPeSS is revisiting its Charter, for which also your input has been asked some months ago. During our assembly, we will be taking this input further in a world cafe type session, which will include additional questions as

- What are the main critical issues that Solidarity Economy should address today?
- Which principles are missing / weakly stated in our charter?
- Which policies do we promote that are linked to the principles?

followed by a summarising discussion. Some of the questions we will send you beforehand. So we are interested to hear from you, as to how you communicate to your public on the significance of solidarity economy, in order for our Charter to also reflect our theories of change.

Strategy Action Plan

Following the discussion and definition of our 2023-2025 strategic orientations, the GA will discuss about the proposals for the main actions to be implemented by the Network and the alliance building that we are working on. Particular attention will be given to the advocacy work, European policy dimension (and EU Parliamentary elections in 2024), inter-cooperation facilitation among members and the development of tools for knowledge sharing and co-financing.

Networking & cooperation space

Last year's GA had a session dedicated to a “market of ideas and projects”, which was appreciated by members. This year we will do a similar facilitated activity, in order to collectively share new ideas, opportunities for collaboration and exchanges, campaigns and common actions and co-designing projects among members working on similar issues.

On the last day, a round table with representatives of some of our main allied networks will be taking place, with a Fish Bowl format.

The discussion will be about: ***“The Europe we need, the Europe we want: Joining forces to raise our voices”***. We will exchange around common advocacy and campaigns at both the local and European levels and see how we can strengthen each others action. Here are the guest speakers with whom we will have the pleasure to debate:

- **Abdul Otman** - Ecolise
- **Martin Georges** - GSEF
- **Sarah de Heusch** - Social Economy Europe
- **Marion Pouzoulet** - ESSFI
- **Sandra Moreno Cadena** - Ripess Intercontinental

and... **you members**, of course, all welcome to actively take part in the conversation.

7) Participants' Checklist

Online participation

If you are not able to be in Villarreux, this doesn't mean you cannot participate... though unfortunately you will miss the more social, informal and convivial parts of the event! But you are still welcome to be with us virtually... online!

In order to allow for members and observers to participate from a distance and be able to interact as much as possible, we are going to use 2 online tools:

- 1) BBB (meet.ripess.eu) - for the meetings
- 2) Framavox.org (loomio) - for offline discussions
- 3) The chat group (whatsapp this year) - for live support and requests

What do you have to do ?

- Please [register to the GA here](#). Don't forget to leave your phone number as we create each year a GA Whatsapp to help with travel and emergency topics.
- Check the program and mark what you want to follow. Not all sessions will be online (the group work might not be possible for logistical and connectivity reasons).
- To intervene during meetings, you can request to do so through the chat and either write or speak. If you want your proposal to be voted by the assembly, please write it down and send it possibly before the 12th of September.
- Voting: during the GA statutory meeting, we will vote to validate proposals or delegates. Members who cannot be present should delegate another member with a proxy vote.
- To record the discussions and documentation of the working groups and of the meetings, we will use Framavox. If you haven't accessed it yet, please register here: <https://framavox.org/ripesseu>

Before attending the General Assembly meeting, please make sure to:

- Register** and send any information or special request for your stay
- Read** all the documentation that you will receive (or check on the [website's GA page](#))
- Remember to pay the **membership fee** (min. 100,00 € but of course you can contribute more)!
- Send your contribution** for the Charter of principles renewal (possibly on [framavox](#)) or suggestions for the GA in general
- Bring materials** from your network / organisation to share with the other participants.
- Consider your candidacy** for the **Coordination committee** (and if you decide, send a short bio-note and motivation to info@ripess.eu)

- ❑ **Offer to prepare or facilitate any convivial activity** (are you a DJ? do you play a musical instrument? do you know any games / warm up activities? will you help set-up the camp-fire or the dancing space? do you want to lead a morning yoga or evening meditation...?)
- ❑ **Help with the event documentation...** bring your camera and take pictures, videos... posto on blogs, social media, radio interviews... any contribution is welcome!

Contact us

Here are the main contacts you can use in case of need:

- **Jason Nardi**, jason.nardi@ripess.eu, mobile: +39 340 525 4247 (also telegram, signal and whatsapp)
- **Georgia Bekridaki**, gebekr@yahoo.gr - mobile: +30 697 722 7879 (whatsapp, viber, telegram, signal)
- **La Bergerie de Villarceaux** - contact@bergerie-villarceaux.org
tel: +33 1 3467 0880



See you at La Bergerie!