

World Social Forum 26-31 January 2005 – Porto Alegre, Brazil

Solidarity Finance during the WSF, Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Title of the seminar: Social and solidarity based finance :
The need for a global network of social finance
organisations to reinforce the social finance sector.**
Date: 28 January 2005

Organisers: INAISE¹ - INPSSE²-PSES³

Animator :

Viviane Vandemeulebroucke, INAISE

Reporter :

Yvon Poirier, INPSSE



Panelists:

Frans de Clerk, Triodos Bank, Belgium – the Netherlands – United Kingdom and Spain, and outgoing president of INAISE

Giovanni Acquati, Mag2, Italy and new president of Inaise

Peter Quarmby (Chief Executive Officer) Community Sector Banking Australia

Lars Perhson, Merkur Bank Denmark

Ben Quinones Member of PSES (Workgroup on solidarity socio-economy), Philippines

Gérald Larose, Caisse d'économie solidaire Desjardins, Quebec

Vanderley Ziger, president of Ancosol, Brazil



From left to right: Giovanni Acquati, Vanderley Ziger, Ben Quinones, Viviane Vandemeulebroucke, Frans de Clerk, Lars Perhson, Gérald Larose, Peter Quarmby and Yvon Poirier

Synthesis

INAISE presented its project to develop world-wide. Presently INAISE member organisations are mainly based in Europe. The decision to go world-wide was approved by the General Assembly in 2003. INAISE is looking for funding to realise this mission as the present resources (on part time secretary) are far below the needs.

¹ INAISE : International Association of Social Finance Organisations (www.inaise.org)

² INPSSE: Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (ripess.org/)

³ PSES : Workgroup on Solidarity Socio-Economy of Alliance 21 (www.socioeco.org/en/index.php)

INAISE outgoing president, Frans de Clerck, presented the main concepts of social and solidarity finance. People have savings they want to invest with social criteria and others have social projects. Social finance wants to match those two needs. The second principle is that they match savings and projects for a community, a territory.

The panellists presented their own experience and expressed their interest and commitment towards the creation of a world-wide social and solidarity finance organisation. All agree on the expansion of INAISE in other continents.

The main idea is to create a world-wide social and solidarity finance circuit by linking up social finance organisations. Therefore a mapping of existing organisations and building of continental (or more limited geographical area) sub network are necessary.

Preliminary to all future collaboration at the financial level, it is essential that partners learn to know each other and meet through a common network.

This is why the official commitment taken by the panellists from Asia (Philippines and Australia) to develop INAISE Asia, is encouraging.



Exchange with the floor showed the necessity to link the discussion on concepts with the situation on the field: interest rate, micro credit in Africa, bigger investments etc. Linking macro to micro. All participants welcomed the decision to expand INAISE world-wide.



INAISE also announced the project to create (on a long term basis – 5-10 years) a world-wide solidarity fund.

To support this idea one participant, followed by 7-8 others, invested Rs 50 in the future fund.

The total amount collected during the seminar has been left to ABCRed, the Brazilian micro finance network, who is in charge of investing the money on behalf of INAISE.

In a further meeting, after the seminar, ABCRed decided to join INAISE and to be its reference and contact organisation for Brazil.



A next step will be the annual international meeting of INAISE in Lyon, France, on the 2nd and 3rd of June. During this meeting an expert workshop will take place to discuss the creation of a world-wide solidarity fund. Micro finance networks from Africa, Latin America, Eastern and Mediterranean countries, will also join the meeting to discuss networking. Participants also decide to meet in Dakar in November 2005 (INPSSE meeting <http://www.iacdglobal.org/events.htm>)

Report by Yvon Poirier (INPSSE) and Viviane Vandemeulebroucke (INAISE)