Social Firms Europe Conference 2015

Draft May 2014



Date: September 9 to 11 2015

<u>Place</u>: University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, Campus Olten, Switzerland (1/2h by train from Basel and Zurich)

Organizer:

- School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (HSA FHNW)
- in cooperation with local partners (to be defined), e.g. AIS (Swiss umbrella of work integration organizations for unemployed people), INSOS (Swiss umbrella of organizations offering homes and workshops for people with disabilites), FUGS (Swiss umbrella for entrepreneurial social firms), BSV (Federal Social Insurance Office), Seco (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs)

Goals:

- Create an opportunity for networking and discussion for Swiss and international CEOs of social firms, Swiss social policy makers (political leaders, head of realted administration units), Swiss and international academics/researchers
- Provide and discuss researched based knowledge, visions, concepts (e.g. results of the current research project in Switzerland, research projects of EMES partners)
- Present an insight to Swiss social firms concepts for international participants

Topics:

Working title: "Social Economy and Welfare in Transition"

Discuss the emergence and development of social economy and models of social enterprises as well as their potential for innovation in contexts of political, economical and social transformation (emerging social problems, ageing societies, processes of exclusion and inclusion, poverty/inequality, unemployment, welfare reforms, public

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budget cutting, public-private-partnerships etc.), with regard to challenges on different levels (political/societal, organizational/entrepreneurial, individual).

Programme structure (draft)

9.9.2015	13:00	Arrival, opportunity for visiting local social firms
	18:30-20:30	Meeting Executive Comittee
10.9.2015	09:00-13:30	Keynotes
	14:30-18:30	Workshops (e.g. finance/funding, legislation and political frameworks, cooperation with public and private partners, impact/outcome measurement etc.)
	19:00	Social event
11.9.2015	09:00-11:00	Panel discussion / World café
	11:30-12:30	General Assembly
		Thanks and Departure

Budget (draft)

Expenses	CHF
Staff	50'000
Speakers (fees, charges)	6'000
Catering (and social event)	32'000
Translation/Interpretation	10'000
Marketing/other	7'000
	105'000
Revenue	
Conference fees (150 participants, among them 40	9'600
international guests / fees for Swiss participants: 400	44'000
CHF, for foreign participants: 200 Euro)	= 53'600
Fundraising (political departments, foundations, umbrella	40-50'000
organizations)	
	93'600-103'600

Opportunities

- Get together in a multi-cultural context (3 main languages spoken in Switzerland: German, French, Italian), where social firm models are very diverse and influenced by different theoretical backgrounds (e.g. french concepts of économie sociale et solidaire, anglosaxon concepts of social economy, italian concepts of cooperative sociali)
- Learnings in a context of a "late" advanced welfare state in a system of direct democracy with strong federalistic structures, which actually is in a process of restructuration/dismanteling

Challenges:

- Funding
- Participation of international participants (conference fees and "costs of living")

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Road Map:

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31.5.2014	Partnership Agreement	HSA FHNW,
		Social Firms
		Europe
30.6.2014	Fundraising strategy defined	HSA FHNW
30.6.2014	Sounding board members with local partners defined	HSA FHNW
30.11.2014	Programme defined	HSA FHNW,
		sounding board,
		(Social Firms
		Europe)
30.11.2014	Fundraising goals achieved and conference	HSA FHNW,
	realization being confirmed	(Social Firms
		Europe)
31.1.2015	Start marketing activities (website, flyers etc.	HSA FHNW,
	prepared)	sounding
		board/partners,
		Social Firms
		Europe
911.9.2015	28-th Annual Conference of Social Firms	
	Europe, CEFEC 2015	
31.10.2015	Report	HSA FHNW

Draft by:

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Approved by:

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