

Invitation
“Social Solutions for Inclusion of Migrants”

16 October 2018
9.00 –13.00

Rue Belliard 99–101, 1000 Bruxelles (room JDE 53)

Social Firms Europe CEFEC would like to invite you to the meeting “*Social Solutions for Inclusion of Migrants*” useful to present CEFEC and its programs as a resource for social and working integration, to debate on the role Social Economy Enterprises can play in migrants' integration and to promote the connection with other European realities, working towards the same goal.

In 2018, during the Annual conference from Sweden and Finland, Social Firms Europe CEFEC celebrated its 31th anniversary from its own foundation. Social Firms Europe CEFEC, <http://www.socialfirmseurope.org/>, which has steadily grown over the past 31 years of its history, unites and represents social firms and enterprises and umbrella organizations from 22 countries, predominantly European.

The network was founded at a time when employment was increasingly difficult for individuals who are at a significant distance from the labor market because of their disability or disadvantage. It is essential that we create jobs for such groups and one of the most obvious solutions is to facilitate the start-up and operation of Social Firms and social cooperative businesses that offer a realistic wage and sustainable employment options on the open market within a supportive working environment.

Social firms have the capacity to offer support services for the inclusion on the labor market of migrants, can prepare these people on the job, give a high degree of networking opportunities and sharing of best practices, innovation and job creation, but also have expertise in writing projects. The social and economic aim of social firms should be supported through local, regional and national financing programs.

During its 2017 Annual conference in Linz (Austria), Social Firms Europe CEFEC supported the initiative of some European governments “*Evoking a New Europe*” that invites us to strengthen solidarity and European civil society, considering that there are more and more people having doubts in the EU and its members to be able to solve economic and social problems in the future.

Social Firms Europe CEFEC, as a strong organization of civil society, has successfully worked for the employment of persons with mental health problems or other disabilities developing tools and methodologies for the evaluation, capacity building, vocational training and education, job mediation and inclusion of workers with different backgrounds in their social enterprises, cooperatives and organizations.

Seizing the new challenges for our civil society - especially the inclusion of migrants and refugees - Social Firms Europe CEFEC wants to contribute and to engage itself and the EU Community, making available and involving its own network, resources and expertise.

*For any questions, please contact us, and **confirm your participation until 8th of October 2018** sending an e-mail to the **SFE CEFEC Secretariat: Alina Bîrsan, socialfirmseurope@gmail.com** .*

Thank you!