



ACTIVITY REPORT

2019

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 2019 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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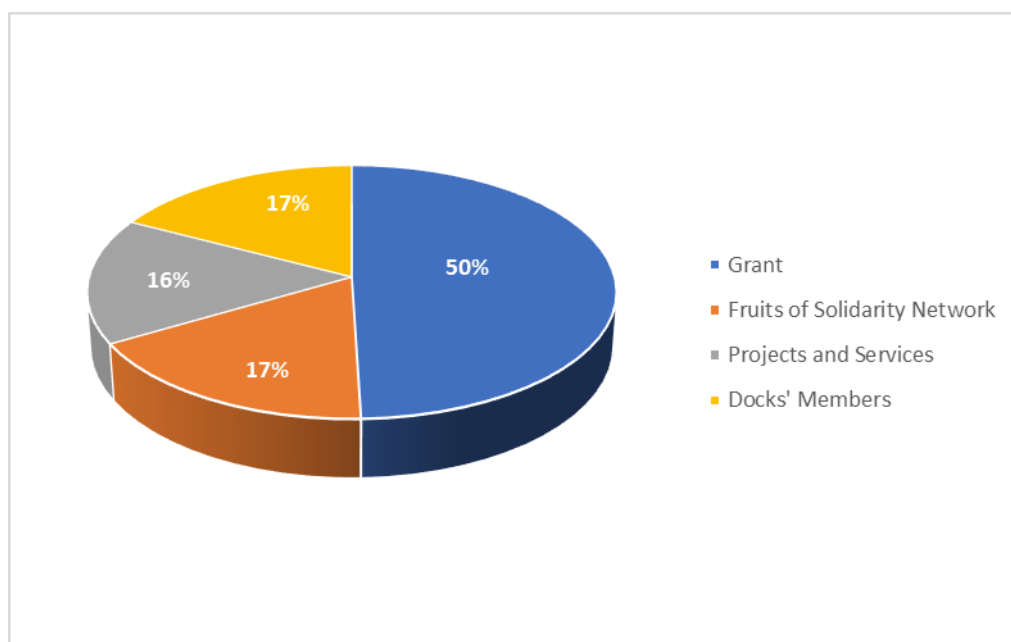


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2019

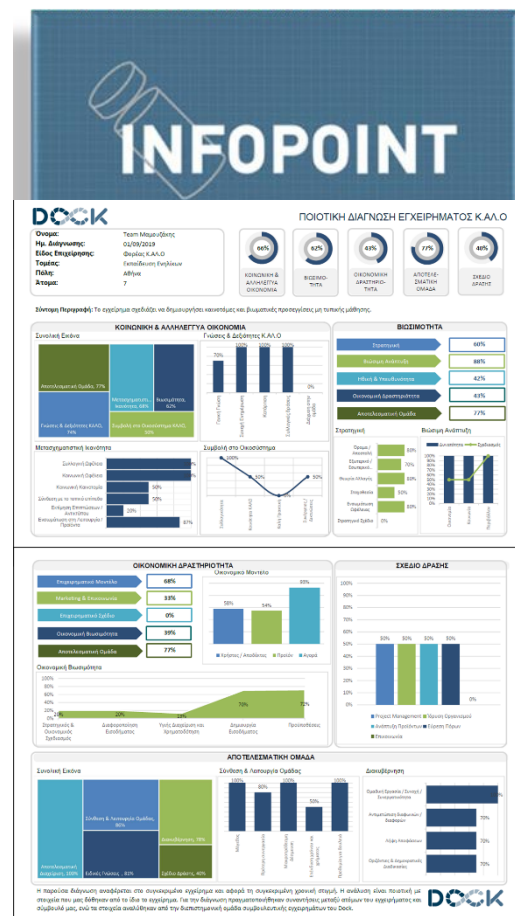
2019 was a year of great developments and changes for us since we officially run the support center for SSE in Athens. After a call from the Ministry of Labour – Social Economy Secretary, we submitted a proposal and succeed to gain the grant for 2,5 years. Our main purpose was through that grand to fund the Infopoint, Helpdesk and public events Dock offered free for the past two years. The grand of the SSE Support Center offers two full time positions in the organization and part of our expenses (e.g. rent, bills etc). The huge bureaucracy of the project and the fact that there is no other support center in the Attica region³, we ended up in investing 3,5 full time employees/members of Dock in order to proper manage the project and give information to all over Greece and services to all people in the region of Attica (<https://kentrostirixiskalo.online/>). We rent and renovated an office according to the needs of the support center, while five members of the group were working daily part time, three of them officially.

All below described activities of 2019 were financed through four sources of income: the grant provided by the the Ministry of Labour – Social Economy Secretary (50%), the Fruits of Solidarity Network contribution to Dock (17%), our Projects and Services (16%) as well as and from the contribution of the members of Dock in extra working hours (17%). The percentages are illustrated bellow:



³ even though 5 more were planned initially by the ministry

Supporting individuals & groups



The Infopoint runs at a **40 hours per week** basis and almost **320 unique cases** issued in 2019 through the Support Center. We held **three public events**, media campaigns and continued to disseminate news and good practices about SSE through our channels. We also developed further documentation and continued to run as described in the previous years.

We invested time in optimizing our seminars and tools. For example our assessment tool transformed in a more sophisticated **diagnostic toll** in the categories of: relation with SSE, sustainability, economic activity, team efficiency and action plan. We run the diagnosis with every group is interested either to start building up a SSE venture, or is already a venture and is interested in developing further. The proven accuracy of the tool ⁴ became the basis for more specialized consultancy and coaching sessions.

We also organized better in terms of procedures and documentation of our work. 2019 became the first year where we can backtrack the work we have done with each case issued by Dock (since one unique case contact us multiple times for various issues).



Through the support center business plans, marketing plans, funding proposals and guidance to become an official SSE venture are provided as services (free of charge) for groups active in Athens. We defined that there is a need for training and coaching on different issues before handling a business plan for a majority of groups. Therefore, on every service issued from the support center we add **20 hours minimum** of training and coaching according to **the particular needs of the group** in the categories of: Business Strategy, Economic Activity, Marketing, Economics and Management. In 2019 two ventures went through the training and coaching process and became active SSE ventures.

⁴ According to the groups that were diagnosed



Name: Roes Cooperativa

About: The group of 7 professionals in non-formal education is active in running Erasmus + and other educational programs in a variety of subjects. Roes Cooperativa aims to transform education with their approach on developing skills and competences of persons on their own pace.

The challenge: How can different professionals with experience in their field transform into a SSE venture and put the collective over their personal gains?

The focus of our support: Training and Coaching on SSE Principles, Fair Wages, Transforming their personal services into Roes Cooperativa Services, Management in SSE



Name: The Beehive Community

About: The group of 5 initial friends aim at social change through self-improvement and community building. They offer seminars, trainings and retreats that addresses wellness through a combination of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, social and environmental activities.

The challenge: How can a group of activists with no previous entrepreneurial experience and/or relevant skills transform into a sustainable venture?

The focus of our support: Training and coaching on Entrepreneurship, Economic Sustainability, Management, Marketing, Product Management and Sales

Supporting the SSE ecosystem

Concerning the visibility of SSE and the ecosystem of SSE in Greece, our main objectives for 2019 were to continue the activities of 2017 and 2018⁵, to address further the issue of educating people about and in SSE and to advocate for solving issues related with the SSE law. Some of the main activities are:

The educational platform went formal. An association formed among 12 SSE cooperatives and 10 academics, researchers, practitioners. We are participating in the governance process of the whole, as a scientific collaborator, as a promoter of the platform, as responsible for the

⁵ Networking activities, public events for knowledge exchange and pointing out the transformative elements, cooperation with nationwide newspaper

collective management of the platform. The subjects of Legal Issues and Marketing in SSE with videos, tools and exercises, were added in 2019 to the platform.

Support VIOME recuperated factory: Keeping a solidarity relation from 2012 with the factory, we organized a users' research in order to get feedback on the products satisfaction (on quality, presentation, access, pricing, responsibility etc). More than 550 users participated, the results getting used from the factory already in order to improve their products. The whole project lasted about 6 months.

Participation at the Synergy project a cooperative project among SSE and Digital Commons initiatives for creation of a loyalty platform, a micro funding tool and community transactions (<https://synergy-kit.io/>).

In 2019, we started our effort to connect the SSE ecosystem with other social movements in Greece, through co-drafting announcements or participating in relevant strikes disseminating and mobilizing other SSE ventures through our channels and through the "Coordination of SSE Bodies in Attica".



Projects and Services

In 2019 we run three projects and gave a small amount of supporting services to SSE initiatives. More specifically:

We realized the project Vote for sustainability: Mobilizing greek civil society for fair Sustainable Consumption and Production policies in Europe in association with Fair Trade Hellas. The "Fair Times" newspaper was translated into Greek, as well as other material regarding Fair Trade (the ten principles of Fair Trade per WFTO and The Fair Trade Charter). A press kit was developed, with material targeting the wider audience and also specifically candidate MEPs. Drawing attention to a public event on May 10 titled "Trade Fair - Live Fair", with the participation of European experts on Fair Trade and Sustainable Consumption and Production, was a key to our communication strategy. Till the May 26 European elections was devoted solely into attracting

meetings and commitments from candidate MEPs (6 in total responded) <https://worldfairtradedaygreece.com/>.

We started a 3-year Erasmus+ project SSE VET2 - Strengthening VET trainers' competences and skills. This project aims to promote Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Europe, through the training of trainers in this specific field. Striving for innovation in Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs, we seek to contribute to the civic and professional development of people, through the integration of alternative socioeconomic models and practices to the traditional market economy in the curricula and teaching methodologies (<https://dock.zone/projects/vet2/>).

We also started another the 2-year project EMPLOY SSE: Promoting Employability through Social Solidarity Economy. The central idea of the project is to implement and promote the framework of Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Vocational and Educational Training (VET). The vision is a comprehensive training and professional development of younger generations, which integrates alternative socioeconomic models in their framework of ideas and attitudes. Although a lot of work has been done on the positive social effects of SSE, less attention has been paid on the positive effect that SSE has on employability, when today, the SSE sector provides paid employment to 6.3% of the working population in the EU-28, compared to 6.5% in 2012 (<https://employsse.eu/>).

