

## Proposal

*David Francis Thompson*

RIPESS – the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy

In this presentation, David Thompson, a member of the Board of RIPESS, will provide an overview of the history, development and current activities of RIPESS and explore possibilities for increased and enhanced Australian engagement with this global social economy network.

### INTRODUCTION TO RIPESS

RIPESS is a network of continental networks that connects social solidarity economy networks throughout the world. The continental networks (RIPESS-LAC, RIPESS-EU, RIPESS-NA, RAESS and ASEC) in turn bring together national and sectoral networks. RIPESS believes in the importance of global solidarity in order to build and strengthen an economy that puts people and planet front and center. From Lima (1997) to Quebec (2001), from Dakar (2005) to Luxembourg (2009) and Manila (2013), RIPESS organizes global forums every four years and is a nexus for learning, information sharing and international collaboration.

### RIPESS AND SSE

RIPESS' mission is to build and promote the social solidarity economy (SSE), which takes into account the social and ethical dimension in all its economic activities. Thus the SSE aims to produce, exchange and consume goods and services that answer the economic and social needs of the local and international communities.

This social and solidarity economy values work over capital. It aims at satisfying the needs of individuals and communities rather than seeking to maximize profit or financial gains. Solidarity-based economic units rest upon a model of democratic decision-making and a participatory and transparent management system, which aims at ensuring collective ownership and responsibility for the outcomes of economic activities, as well as ongoing mobilisation and contributions to ensure their success.

The contribution of this economy is appraised by its incidence on local, national and international development, mainly, through the creation of permanent jobs, the development of new services, the enhancement of living standards, the contribution to gender equity, the protection of the environment and the creation of wealth under ethical conditions.

**Conference themes:** work, exchange and our relationship with the natural world.

**Bio:**

David Thompson is CEO of Jobs Australia Limited, the national peak organisation for more than 270 non-profit providers of employment and related services for unemployed people. David has a keen interest in social justice and equity issues.

David is also Director of the National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations Limited, Chair, Jobs Australia Foundation, Chair, COMMACT International and Director of its Australian Chapter, Chair of Community 21 Limited, and Chair of Community Sector Enterprises Pty Ltd. David is also a member of the Board of the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy and a member of the Global Advisory Board to the Minister for Labour for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.