FINAL REPORT
THE AUTUMN SCHOOL ON THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN QUEBEC

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 25-29, 2010

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**Project Title**
The Autumn School on the Social Economy and Local Economic Development in Quebec, Concordia University, October 25-29, 2010.

**Abstract**
The Autumn School on the Social Economy and Local Economic Development in Quebec (Concordia University, October 25-29, 2010) was aimed primarily at local economic development practitioners, policy makers, and researchers from Latin America and North and East Africa, interested in learning about the social economy in Quebec and how it can be embedded in an integrated territorial strategy for economic and social development. The main objectives of the program were: 1) to analyze the Quebec social economy as part of a local development strategy in the province; 2) to discuss the pertinence of the experiences, tools and policies in the context of the social economy and current local economic development strategies and processes in Latin America and North and West Africa; and 3) to establish collaboration with partners in Quebec for possible future cooperation in this field. The intensive five-day program combined presentations and group discussions with researchers, practitioners, policy makers and leaders in local economic development and the social economy in Quebec with site visits to selected social economy enterprises. The program was jointly organized by the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Concordia University and the Universitas Programme of the United Nations Office for Project Services in collaboration with the ILS LEDA Programme.

**Keywords**
Social economy, solidarity economy, local economic development, Local Economic Development Agencies, governance, social innovation, alternative economic strategies, poverty reduction, social exclusion.

I) **Context**
The social economy has increasingly been recognized in numerous countries throughout Latin America and Africa for its capacity to bring about alternative models of local socio-economic development, participatory governance, and environmental sustainability. In these countries the social economy is often referred to as the “solidarity economy” / “popular economy”, to include the growing number of civil society organizations and associations engaged in effective socio-economic revitalization strategies that, not only generate wealth, but also address issues of poverty and social exclusion by creating stable employment in a diversity of sectors of the economy. Such is the case of Argentina where the solidarity economy sector has been an important force behind social policy developments and in Ecuador where a model of a social solidarity economy has been adopted, among others.

In countries where the social economy has established this capacity, it is best achieved when embedded in a coherent local development approach. This is especially true for Quebec, a
province in Canada that is recognized internationally as a leader in the social economy and in local development. Rooted in popular culture and social movements, the social economy in Quebec is an example of an institutional experiment where the private and public sectors, the labour movement as well as the civil society organizations are involved in a negotiating process to establish partnerships for common goals: to create socio-economic strategies for development and to co-construct enabling public policies. The institutionalization of these processes complement the public agenda as well as facilitate the transformation towards more democratic models of government.

Over the years, researchers and practitioners from many parts of the world have visited Quebec to learn more about the processes underlying this success, including initiatives at the enterprise level, employment creation and innovation in public policy to enable the social economy and local development to thrive.

II) Objectives and Approach
The Autumn School was aimed primarily at local economic development practitioners, policy makers and researchers from Latin America and North and West Africa interested in learning about the social economy and how it can be embedded in an integrated territorial strategy for economic and social development. It was conceived as an interactive learning process and an exchange of experiences with local professional, policy actors, and researchers from Quebec. As such it provided a great opportunity to participants to present and discuss their own work and local experiences with the other participants from the South as well as practitioners, researchers, and policy actors involved in the program.

The course aimed to:
- Discuss the importance of the social economy within the framework of a human development approach;
- Analyze how the social economy in Quebec is part of a local development strategy in the province;
- Discuss the pertinence of the experiences, tools and policies in the context of the social economy and current local economic development strategies and processes in Latin America;
- Establish collaboration with partners in Quebec for possible future cooperation in this field.

III) Methodology
The Autumn School was conceived as an interactive learning process and an exchange of ideas and experiences with researchers, practitioners, policy makers and leaders in local economic development and the social economy in Quebec. Furthermore, it provided ample opportunity for participants to discuss their respective experiences among themselves and with the professionals directly involved in the social economy in Quebec.
The methodology adopted for the Autumn School was the combination of presentations and group discussions with researchers, practitioners, policy makers and leaders in local economic development and the social economy in Quebec, to address issues relating to the social economy and local economic development under three broad headings, experiences, tools, policy, with site visits to selected social economy enterprises.

**Experiences:**
Participants were introduced to the social economy, the many initiatives that comprise the social economy in Quebec, the different sectors of activity and the range of actors involved, as well as to the local economic development multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder networks in Quebec that are critical to its development.

**Tools:**
The Autumn School examined the different instruments used to promote and develop the Quebec social economy such as:
- Labour market development including training and human resource management to promote decent work
- Financial instruments
- Social enterprise development
- Partnership research (academics and practitioners) / Action research
- Collection and dissemination of information through portals, data base, observatories, etc.
- Commercialization strategies
- International partnerships
- Social inclusion strategies of marginalized populations

**Policy:**
Policy actors introduced participants to policy frameworks at local, regional and national levels that are supportive of local economic development and the social economy. Drawing on the Quebec experience participants discussed at great length strategies and approaches for policy formation as a process of co-construction and policy innovation and as an integrated system of social innovation. Drawing on the Quebec experience participants discussed at great length strategies and approaches for policy formation as a process of co-construction and policy innovation and as an integrated system of social innovation.

**Site Visits** were integral to the program and enabled participants to learn about social economy initiatives and social enterprises that address issues of poverty and social exclusion, create sustainable employment, and generate wealth. Discussions with the professionals and practitioners involved, provided participants with the opportunity to discuss their own experiences, successes and challenges. Visits included: *The Chantier de l’économie sociale; La corporation de développement économique communautaire de Trois-Rivières (ECOF)* and several social economy initiatives in Trois Rivières; *Insertech; La TOHU;* the *Network of Daycare Centers in Quebec;* and the *Coopérative William.*
In addition, throughout the week, participants engaged in **group discussions** with the Coordinating Committee composed of Giancarlo Canzanelli (UNOPS Technical Advisor in Local Economic Development (ILS LEDA)), Luciano Carrino (Director, Scientific Committee Interagency of the United Nations Human Development), Marguerite Mendell (Director, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy and Vice-Principal, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University), and Sara Swartz (Coordinator, Programme Universitas, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), to critically reflect upon the experiences in Quebec and their relevance to the work environments and social realities of the participants, as well as to draw lessons for policy, practice, and future collaborations.

IV) **Project Activities**

The Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Concordia University and the Universitas Programme of the United Nations Office for Project Services in collaboration with the ILS LEDA Programme organized and delivered an intensive five-day training program on the Social Economy and Local Economic Development in Quebec.

**Highlights of the Program. (Please see complete program in Annex 1)**

**Monday, October 25th, 2010:**

Participants were welcomed to the Program by Professor Marguerite Mendell (Director, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy and Vice-Principal, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University), and Sara Swartz (Coordinator, Programme Universitas, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

**Summary of Presentations:**

1) **Towards a Human Development Economy.** Luciano Carrini (Director, Scientific Committee Interagency of the United Nations Human Development).

   - Over the last twenty years the United Nations has documented a crisis in development that came about after the end of the Cold War and with the rise of a neo-liberal ideology.
   - The development crisis is characterized by increased levels of poverty, greater gaps between rich and poor nations, wars, increased intra-family violence as well as violence in society, and a development model that does not respect the environment – unsustainable development. At the same time there is a utopian consensus that presents a peaceful, sustainable, and equitable development and governments with a utopian platform where development is meant to eradicate poverty and provide universal health and education. What are the causes of this phenomenon?
The development crisis is accompanied by a cultural crisis within the development community since there are no tools to solve the development crisis, and a social stratification crisis within societies, as the marginalized sectors of the population cannot fulfill the expectations brought about by globalization.

There is a need for a critical overview of development and alternative strategies that present a vision of the economy that would identify and address the needs of society.


The role of the Local Development Agencies (LEDAs), whose main mission is to promote integrated local economic development in the territories they serve, develop social networks/social cohesion by facilitating the participation of all sectors of the population in the social and a political dialogue about the needs, priorities, and distribution and allocation of resources (human and physical) of the territory, and how these agencies can change to address the current socio-economic development crisis of the territories they serve.

How can social networks create a solidarity economy that will address issues of poverty and social exclusion and generate wealth and sustainable employment?

The role of the “local” in analyzing the needs, the potential (physical resources), the human development, and the sustainable development strategies of the territory.

The three generations of LEDAs – first generation: mostly assistance to the marginalized sectors (i.e. microcredit), second generation: promotion of productive networks, third generation: input into and impact on national social policies – how to address the issues of the social economy and social innovation (as an initiative that comes from society).

The important role of universities in the formulation of social innovations and how to address the problem of lack of research in universities in the South.

The LEDAs are more successful in territories where there is commitment of local actors to the development of the territory, when the objective is human development, when it provides integrated services, when it has adequate human resources available, when it has a medium to long-term vision and strategy, and that is linked to national networks.

3) Theory and practice of social economy in Quebec and internationally - Margie Mendell and Benoit Lévesque

Professors Mendell and Lévesque presented an overview of the social economy in Quebec by tracing its recent history, identifying the key actors/sectors involved, the objectives and achievements of the social economy, the challenges and the current role the social economy occupies in Quebec as a recognized economic actor contributing to wealth creation in the province. Professor Lévesque situated the history of the social economy in an analysis of different periods of innovation. Today, the social economy has moved from developing innovative business practice and new sectors producing goods and/or services, to innovative approaches to socio-economic development and policy formation. Both Professors Mendell and
Lévesque described how the social economy has been integrated into a local development strategy in Quebec; how its development has been and is rooted in territories and communities. They discussed the critical and indispensable role of the Chantier de l’économie sociale, a network of networks in the social economy. This representation, or “one voice” has been instrumental in developing the social economy since 1996 and in working with government to design enabling policies. This “co-construction” of public policy is an important achievement in Quebec that provides significant lessons for other regions and countries. Their presentation generated lively discussion with participants and numerous questions. Professors Mendell and Lévesque set the stage for the remainder of the week, when the participants would meet those directly involved in the social economy and would have the opportunity to witness the realities they described. Professor Mendell accompanied the participants throughout the week, providing extensive opportunity for an ongoing dialogue, clarification and answers to questions.

Tuesday, October 26, 2010:
Visit to the Chantier de l’économie sociale

Participants spent the day at the Chantier to learn about the organization, the processes and actors in the social economy in Quebec, and the enabling tools for the development and promotion of the social economy, including finance, training, and partnership research, among others.

Summary of Presentations:


- The Chantier de l’économie sociale, created following the Summit on the Economy and Employment (1996), is a Quebec-wide network of cooperatives and nonprofit enterprises, community economic development and local economic development organizations, and social movements, whose mission is to promote and support the emergence and development of social economy enterprises in all sectors of the economy, as an integral part of the socio-economic development of the province, and in so doing, to recognize the pluralistic nature of its economy.
- As part of its mandate, and through partnership agreements, the Chantier has established collaboration with the different regional hubs of social economy (Pôles d’économie sociale en région), composed of collective enterprises and (technical) support organizations, to promote dialogue and partnership among local and regional social economy actors.
- The Administrative Board, composed of 35 members, brings together social economy actors, networks and social movements representing different sectors of the social
economy and including women, youth, aboriginals, as well as representatives from the regional hubs, labour unions, cooperatives, community sector, social finance institutions and researchers.

- In 2007, the Chantier launched a social economy portal (http://economiesocialequebec.ca) to provide information on the different regions and sectors, as well as information on tools to develop and promote the social economy, and research and publications relevant to the sector. The portal also includes a directory of social enterprises and organizations that provide (technical) support to this sector.

**Tools and Processes for Development and Promotion of the Social Economy in Quebec:**


- The Fiducie is an investment fund, created in 2007 and administered by the Chantier, whose main purpose is to promote the expansion and development of the social economy in Quebec.
- The initial capitalization of the Fiducie was provided by the federal government and later supplemented by investments by the provincial government and two labour funds, the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs (FTQ) and Fondation (CSN).
- The investment product of the Fiducie is patient capital (no repayment of capital for 15 years) to invest in operating capital to finance the cost of new products and equipment, and to finance real-estate investments of social economy enterprises.
- The Fiducie supports different social economy sectors including food, arts and culture, retail, the environment, media, recreation, tourism, natural resources, communications, health, and community infrastructure, among others.


- The CSMO-ÉSAC was created in 1997 to promote dialogue and to facilitate and consolidate networks and partnerships to address labour issues common to the community-based and social economy sectors.
- It fosters the development and retention of labor by mobilizing key stakeholders to address the particular needs of a sector and to design strategies for ongoing training and development.
- It contributes to the co-construction of knowledge on the labour market, that reflects the diversity of the workforce, the collective nature of businesses and organizations, their presence in the different regions of the province, and the values that guide the sector, i.e. democracy, social justice, equity, and solidarity, by bringing together educational institutions, training experts, and stakeholders from the community sector.
- It brings together educational institutions, training experts, and stakeholders from civil society organizations to co-construct knowledge on the labour market that reflects the diversity of the workforce, the collective nature of businesses and organizations, their
presence in the different regions of the province, and the values that guide community action and the social economy, i.e. democracy, social justice, equity, and solidarity.

3) The Role of Partnership Research. Jean-Marc Fontan, Sociology, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Juan-Luis Klein, Geography, Université du Québec à Montréal.

- The Community-University Research Alliances (ARUC-ÉS) and the Réseau québécois de recherche partenariale en économie sociale (RQRP-ÉS) model brings together university-based research groups and social economy actors for the co-production and mobilization of knowledge on issues relating to the social economy.
- Research agendas and methodologies are jointly defined by researchers in consultation with practitioners and go through five phases: joint definition of partnership research projects; accreditation (application for support and funding); project implementation; dissemination and transfer of knowledge; and project evaluation.
- The publicly funded ARUC-ÉS and RQRP-ÉS network is composed of two working groups, the Sectoral Research Partnerships Groups (CAPs) and the Regional Research Partnerships Groups (GRAPs). The CAPs specialize in particular sectors including social services, community housing, recreation and social tourism, finance, and local and regional development. The GRAPs are set up in eight regions throughout the province of Quebec.
- Partnership research promotes the value of the social economy as an agent for social change and local economic development; demonstrates the epistemological value of this methodology, provides opportunities for internships and student training; and informs public policy formation.


- In November 2008 the Quebec provincial government launched a five year Government Action Plan for Collective Entrepreneurship, developed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, in collaboration with six other ministries, the Youth Secretariat, and the Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs, to promote the development of the social economy in Quebec.
- The Plan revolves around four axes:
  1) To support networking activities of social economy enterprises: annual financial assistance to the Chantier to fulfill its mission and mandate; special agreements with the conférences régionales des élus (CRÉ); support for regional poles for the promotion of the social economy, dialogue and partnership.
  2) Strategic actions to support the development of the social economy: elaboration of a statistical portrait of home care social economy enterprises with the support of the CRÉ and in collaboration with actors from this sector; creation of a working group to elaborate a statistical portrait of the social economy in Quebec to serve as a guide for future intervention in this sector; support for research and transfer of knowledge on the
social economy; training of social enterprises employees; increase awareness about the relevance of the social economy, particularly among public sector employees working in related fields.

3) Special measures for developing the social economy among groups in the population and sectors in the economy: youth outreach to raise awareness of the social economy; financial support to implement training program in collaboration with the Coalition of Aboriginal Friendship Centers; support to Inuit communities wishing to develop social enterprises; collaborating with the Comité d’orientation- économie sociale et communautés culturelles of the Chantier to facilitate the integration of immigrants into society; support for social enterprises in Montreal in the arts and culture.

4) New initiatives: a study to reinforce the contribution of the social economy towards poverty reduction and social inclusion; financial assistance allocated to the cultural sector; creation of working group to conduct a prospective analysis of the social economy in order to define the place of the social economy in society and to reflect upon new avenues for its development.

5) A Social Economy Partnership for an Inclusive and Sustainable Development. Johanne Lavoie., Director, Social Economy Bureau, City of Montreal.

- The municipal government recognizes the contribution of the social economy to local economic development, and promotes its development by supporting the contribution of social economy actors.
- The City has identified five intervention axes into the social economy:
  Axe 1: Support for collective enterprises: support for infrastructure through the local development mandate received from the government of Quebec; support for collective enterprises; additional assistance to projects funded by a borough.
  Axe 2: Contribution of the social economy to major projects in Montreal: promote the integration of the social economy within a sustainable development perspective; encourage the collaboration among the different economic development actors.
  Axe 3: Contribution of the social economy to the improvement of the quality of life of the population: culture, sustainable development, housing, collective housing, recreation, and social tourism.
  Axe 4: Business practices: promoting the procurement of goods and services produced by social economy enterprises; maintain and improve agreements among social economy enterprises.
  Axe 5: Promotion of the social economy: integrate the social economy as an important axis in the promotional strategies and communication plans; Agreements of Cooperation: Montréal – Paris; Agreement of Exchange and Cooperation Montréal – Lyon.

- The committee in charge of implementing the Partnership, chaired by the Head of Economic Development at the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, is composed of three assistant general managers, the Commissioner for the Social Economy, and current members of the Advisory Committee. It has the same directives
as the Economic Development Strategy; it is evaluated every five years, and it is managed by the Social Economy Secretariat.

**Wednesday, October 27, 2010**

**Visit: City of Trois-Rivières**

Participants travelled to the city of Trois-Rivières, Canada’s oldest industrial city known as the pulp and paper capital of the world until the decline of the industry in the 1980s. En route to Trois-Rivières Professor Frédéric Lesemann (Institut national de la recherche scientifique – Urbanisation, culture, société) gave an introductory lecture on the history of this industrial town and an overview of how social economy and local economic development initiatives driven by civil society organizations and supported by policy actors have improved the community.

**Presentation and Visits:**

1) *Corporation de développement économique communautaire de Trois-Rivières (ECOF)* and the *The Centre d’organisation mauricien de services et d’éducation populaire (COMSEP)*. Sylvie Tardif, City Councilor, Trois-Rivières.

- ÉCOF is a Community Economic Development Corporation (CDEC) created in 1996, whose mandate is to support community initiatives for economic and social development, in partnership with various organizations in the territory, by: a) contributing to labour force training and development; b) supporting private and social entrepreneurship in the territory, and c) implementing projects that contribute to the development of the territory. ÉCOF was created in response to the needs of the Centre d’organisation mauricien de services et d’éducation populaire (COMSEP).

- COMSEP, created in 1986 and with a membership of about 400 members, brings together poor and marginalized individuals seeking to improve their living conditions and their opportunities to re-enter the labour force. COMSEP offers three main services: a) services to the community that include community stores, cultural clubs, tax clinics, and summer camps. b) social intervention that includes support for women’s groups, men’s groups, and single mothers, popular theatre, collective kitchens, programs for social insertion, and youth committees. c) employment that includes support for social economy enterprises, training, and social solidarity programs.

**Visits:**

- Le Bucafin: a social economy enterprise created in 2003 that houses a café, a Laundromat, and offers internet services all at reduced prices. It also hosts regular shows and art exhibits free or charge.
o Église Sainte-Cécile: located in one of the oldest neighbourhoods, was acquired and converted into an artistic and cultural centre by the Corporation Spect-Arts. One of the missions of the corporation created in 2009 is the cultural revitalization of Trois-Rivières.

o Fonds Communautaire d’Emprunt de la Mauricie (FCEM): a community loan fund whose mission is to develop the economic and human potential of the community by providing access to credit, technical support, and coaching support to individuals who hold a viable business with limited access to conventional financial services.

o L'Écol'Hôtel: The city of Trois-Rivières will be the site for the first eco-hotel in Canada to be opened in 2012. It is one of the projects of the social enterprise Vire-Vert. Revenues generated by the hotel will be used to finance projects to revitalize the neighbourhoods in need, to combat poverty and to improve the environment.

Thursday, October 28, 2010
Visits:

o Insertech: a social inclusion enterprise created in 1998 by the Société de développement Angus and its partner the Comité de relance Angus, whose mission is to promote the sustainable social and professional inclusion of young adults and immigrants excluded from employment by providing a real, paid, work experience in the field of Information Technology as well as personal, social and professional training. It also contributes to sustainable development and democratization of technology through its recycling activities and the reuse of computer equipment.

o La TOHU – la Cité des arts du cirque de Montréal: a social enterprise home to the National Circus School and a state-of-the-art circus facility, whose mission is to secure Montreal’s place as an international circus arts capital; to participate in the revitalization of the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex – an abandoned limestone quarry; and to participate in the cultural, social and economic development of the Saint-Michel neighborhood in Montreal, a working poor neighborhood with an ethnically diverse population.

Friday, October 29, 2010
Visits:

o Regroupement économique et social du Sud-Ouest (RESO): a community development corporation created in 1989 whose mission is the economic and social development of the Southwest district of Montreal. RESO offers services that include training and guidance to the unemployed; management consulting services and information on
assistance programs and access to community investment funds; assistance to future entrepreneurs and businesses in the district with finding commercial space and land; offers training and services to young adults re-entering the workforce or starting a business; and support local workforce development initiatives.

- Cuisine A’tout: a social insertion enterprise that promotes the social-professional integration of poorly educated and marginalized individuals between the ages of 18 and 55 by offering food service training (including food preparation, catering, management), training in institutional cooking, and basic training in French and mathematics, among others.

- Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE): a network of social enterprises that represents 800 early childhood centers and home child care coordination offices; it is the third largest employer in Quebec. It was created in 2003 and its mandate is to promote early childhood centers, to foster dialogue among the network, to encourage the development of regional networks, to (politically) represent its members, and to represent early childhood centers and home child care coordination offices when negotiating working conditions.

- Coopérative de solidarité wwwilliam.coop: an initiative of the AQCPE, formed in 2006, this solidarity purchasing co-operative has a membership of 430 early childhood care centers, and operates as their purchasing network through its transactional Web site, www.william.coop. Its mission is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the network for the families it caters to. It is an example of a successful and innovative business strategy.

**VI) Project Outputs**

We have accomplished our project as set out in our initial request to the IDRC. We organized and delivered an intensive five-day Autumn School on the Social Economy and Local Economic Development in Quebec. The program was aimed primarily to local economic development practitioners, policy actors, and researchers from Latin America and North and West Africa interested in learning about the social economy in Quebec, and the processes that integrate it into local economic development and human development strategies. The program had the participation of seven local economic development practitioners from Latin America, one practitioner/researcher from Spain, and two graduate students from the Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development Program at Concordia University. *(Please see Annex 2 for List of Participants and their affiliations)*. Initially the Institute had confirmed the participation of a total of sixteen participants from Latin America, Africa, Spain, and Italy. In the two weeks prior to the beginning of the program, we received nine cancellations due to visa refusals, lack of funding, and personal reasons. These unfortunate circumstances did not affect the overall outcome of the program.
The most significant outcomes of this project are capacity building of local economic development and policy actors from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain and the opportunities created by this program for international co-operation and research collaborations.

The Quebec experience shows how the social economy, based on values of social solidarity and social responsibility, is interrelated with local economic development, can substantially improve the different dimensions of human development, and can be an agent for social cohesion that brings about more equitable societies. The key elements of this experience are an engaged civil society guided by principles of democratic participation and solidarity, financial tools and structures that facilitate the creation and development of social enterprises, action research and partnership research that inform policy and builds capacity for civil society, and the construction of public policies, brought about in response to a social dialogue, that facilitate the emergence and promotion of the social economy and alternative economic strategies for communities and territories. The Autumn School provided participants with a broad overview of the social economy and the diverse tools for its development, the role of community stakeholders and the importance of their commitment to their territory, and the policy processes that bring about alternative socio-economic initiatives and innovative ways to approach social inequalities and social exclusion.

Lectures by academics and presentations by professionals in the field introduced participants to the social economy and issues relating to local economic development; the adopted methodology allowed for multiple opportunities for dialogue and exchange. Giving the realities of the South, an issue of great interest to the participants was the creation and management of financial tools for social economy enterprises and citizen-based initiatives. The Quebec experience provided participants with practical knowledge on solidarity finance. Furthermore, during visits to various social enterprises participants learnt first hand about the financial and marketing strategies of these organizations, how these social enterprises combine solidarity and social responsibility with profitability and effective management, and how to address important issues of investment in research and development, the development of new markets, and increased competitiveness and profitability. Participants had the opportunity to discuss these issues at great length with representatives of the various organizations visited as well as among themselves.

To different degrees the emerging social/solidarity economies in Latin America and the Caribbean face the challenge of how to mobilize civil society to address issues of poverty and social exclusion of the marginalized sectors of the population, how to establish intra-regional and inter-regional social economy networks, and how to integrate these networks into the regional and national local development strategies of these territories. Through the Quebec experience, participants learned how civil society organizations, community and social economy actors have engaged their communities, designed tools and implemented processes to empower these communities, and provide them with the necessary negotiating strategies to participate in a social dialogue.
Action research and partnership research have played a very important role in facilitating the participation of social economy and community actors in the multi-stakeholder dialogue on innovative socio-economic development strategies and policy innovation to promote economic growth and reduce poverty. Participants learned how university-community networks are built to meet the needs of the community and how they co-construct and disseminate knowledge to improve the welfare of a community.

The role of the state in the development and promotion of the social economy was discussed throughout the week from different perspectives. In Quebec, the provincial and municipal governments recognize the importance of the social economy as an agent for socio-economic change and have created and implemented enabling public policies and programs for its promotion and development. Policy dialogue between government and civil society addresses the needs and concerns of the community, and better equips policy-makers to formulate and implement multisectoral and community-based strategies to address poverty and social exclusion.

vii) Project outcomes

The Autumn School has contributed to knowledge innovation by introducing participants to multi-stakeholder collaborative initiatives that can increase societal capacity to address socio-economic inequalities, and multi-stakeholder collaborative processes that bring about innovative socio-economic development strategies and enabling social policies to promote economic growth and reduce poverty. Moreover, the Quebec experience also shows how socially innovative alternatives may contribute to the development of a democratic culture, social and political equality, and values of solidarity and pluralism.

The program has broadened the policy horizons of the participating public policy and local economic development actors by proving them with the opportunity to critically reflect upon the role of the state, as well as the role of the local economic development agencies (LEDAs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, in addressing poverty reduction, local economic development, and the development of the social / solidarity economy.

The social economy experience Quebec not only represents an alternative to more typical top-down initiatives, but underlies the importance of government engagement in a dialogic process and demonstrates the impact of innovative ways to address social inequalities and social exclusion. Two major questions were of concern to the participants: can a social /solidarity model be introduced from the top down, as is the case of Ecuador where the solidarity economy – a strategy to combat poverty, to generate income, and of job creation are actions – is enshrined in the Constitution? Can governments promote social innovation and strengthen these initiatives given the budgetary realities of the South?

The role of local economic development agencies (LEDAs) in Latin America and the Caribbean in poverty reduction was discussed throughout the week. The main purpose of the LEDAs, which
operate mainly in territories of extreme poverty, is to promote integrated local economic development. The Quebec experience represents an alternative model of socio-economic development with a broader vision that includes the engagement of the different actors in the territory and assumes a commitment to the territory. Through lectures and visits, participants learned about how to organize and mobilize different stakeholders, how to build inter-regional and intra-regional networks of social actors, and how to assess the potential of the territory and tap into the human and physical resources of the territory. Furthermore, visits to social enterprises showed participants the potential that these initiatives have for poverty reduction and social inclusion and the role the LEDAs may have in promoting and supporting these initiatives.

The program has also contributed to the dissemination of knowledge by proving participants with documentation and information on the social economy in Quebec and related issues. Participants received a CD with a selected bibliography on the social economy and a list of recommended web site address as well as documentation on the different organizations that they visited.

viii) Overall assessment and Recommendations

The program has been successful in providing participants with an overview of the social economy in Quebec. In their evaluations, participants commented that they found the program a stimulating interactive learning process that provided them with broad knowledge on the social economy, the scope of innovative social policies, and the impact of these initiatives on poverty reduction and local economic socio-economic development. They consider group discussions, both with the Coordinating Team and among themselves, to have allowed them to critically reflect upon the Quebec experience and to consider how it could be applied to their respective work environment and territories.

In their evaluations participants also appreciated the presence of Professor Marguerite Mendell throughout the duration of the program given her experience with and knowledge of the social economy in Quebec.

Participants also gave positive comments on the planning and logistics of the event and expressed their appreciation for the translation services.

It is worth noting that the success of this program would not have been possible without the relationship that the Karl Polanyi Institute has established with provincial ministries with relevant portfolios, the City of Montreal, civil society organizations, and social economy enterprises. Over the year the Institute has participated in research collaborations that have created spaces for dialogue and exchange and provides these organizations with tools that have contributed to the development of the social economy in the province of Quebec.
Annex 1
PROGRAMME UNIVERSITAS
ET
L’INSTITUT D’ÉCONOMIE POLITIQUE KARL POLANYI

ÉCOLE D’AUTOMNE SUR L’ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE LOCAL AU QUÉBEC
Université Concordia, Montréal, Québec, Canada
25 au 29 octobre 2010 *

PROGRAMME

LUNDI, le 25 octobre 2010

9h00 – 12h00 - Lieu: Université Concordia, Pavillon Samuel Bronfman, 1590 Dr. Penfield, Salle 301

Mot de bienvenue et introduction
• Présentation des participants
• Présentation du programme de la semaine (M. Mendell, S. Swartz)
• Vers une économie du développement humain (L. Carrino)
• Les stratégies internationales et les outils pour le développement économique local (G. Canzanelli)

Déjeuner: 12h00 – 14h00 – Lieu: Pavillon Samuel Bronfman, Salle Atrium

14h00 – 16h30 - Lieu: Pavillon Samuel Bronfman, Salle 301

• Théories et pratiques de l’économie sociale au Québec et à l’étranger (M. Mendell, B. Lévesque)
• Liens entre l’économie sociale, le développement humain et le développement économique local (discussions de groupe avec G. Canzanelli, B. Lévesque, M. Mendell et L. Carrino)

16h30 – 18h00 - Lieu : Bureau du Présidente, Université Concordia, Salle GM 801-04
Réception de bienvenue à l'Université Concordia organisée par la professeur Liselyn Adams, vice-présidente aux relations internationales, Université Concordia. En présence des représentants du CRDI, de la Ville de Montréal, des Nations-Unies et du Chantier de l’économie sociale.

* L’équipe de coordination composée de G. Canzanelli, L. Carrino, M. Mendell, et S. Swartz participera à toutes les visites.
MARDI, le 26 octobre 2010

Visite: Chantier de l'économie sociale  (Lieu : 4200 rue Adam)

9h00 – 10h00
- Le Chantier de l’économie sociale: un réseau de réseaux dans l’économie sociale (P. Duguay)

10h15 –12h30
- Le Chantier de l'économie sociale et les outils de développement
  o Finances (J. Charest)
  o Développement stratégique (C. Guindon)
  o Développement régional (M-H. Methé)

- Comité sectoriel de main-d’œuvre en action communautaire et en économie sociale (CSM) : un organisme du soutien au développement de la main-d’œuvre.
  o Travail/Formation (C. Charpentier)

- Commentaires et discussions de groupe

Déjeuner : 12h30 – 14h00 – Chantier de l’économie sociale

14h00 – 17h00
- Le Chantier de l’économie sociale et les outils de développement (suite)
  o Rôle de la recherche partenariale (J - M. Fontan; M. Mendell; J.L. Klein)
  o Politiques publiques (S. Bouchard, sous-ministre à l’occupation du territoire, ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l’Occupation du territoire et J. Lavoie, directrice du Secrétariat de l’économie sociale, Ville de Montréal)

17h00 – 18h30
- Commentaires et discussions de groupe animé par G. Canzanelli, M. Mendell, S. Swartz, L. Carrino

MERCREDI, le 27 octobre 2010

Visite: Trois-Rivières - 8h30 – 18h30
Départ de Montréal à 8h30 – l’autobus partira de l’hôtel Trylon, 3463 Sainte-Famille

10h30 – 17h00:
Corporation de développement économique communautaire de Trois-Rivières (ECOF) : un exemple de stratégie intégrée pour le développement local.
- Accompagnée par F. Lesemann, et l’équipe pédagogique de base.
JEUDI, le 28 octobre 2010

Visites à Montréal
Prenez note qu'un autobus transportera les participants aux visites programmées pour le jeudi matin. L'autobus partira à 8h30 de l'hôtel Trylon, 3463 Sainte-Famille

9h00 – 10h30 - lieu : Insertech, 2600 rue William-Tremblay
Axe thématique 1: L’intégration sociale et économique des personnes marginalisées
  • Insertech (une entreprise d'insertion qui emploie des jeunes marginalisés).

11h00 – 13h00 – Lieu : La Tohu, 2345, rue Jarry Est
Axe thématique 2: Les stratégies du marché du travail
  • La TOHU (une entreprise d'économie sociale œuvrant dans les domaines culturel et environnemental et qui emploie des jeunes socialement exclus - une entreprise de formation).

Déjeuner: 13h00 – 14h00: La Tohu - Lieu : 2345, rue Jarry Est

14h30 – 18h00 – Lieu: 1590 Dr. Penfield, salle 301
  • Discussions de groupes, rapports de groupe, synthèses et conclusions (Équipe pédagogique de base)

VENDREDI, le 29 octobre 2010

Visites à Montréal (suite)

9h00 – 12h00 – Lieu 1751, rue Richardson
Axe thématique 3: Les intermédiaires hybrides et multi- parties prenantes en développement local et communautaire
  • Regroupement économique et social du Sud-Ouest (RESO). Une corporation de développement économique communautaire dans le sud-ouest de Montréal. Un exemple important des intermédiaires hybrides de développement locale au Québec.

Déjeuner : 12h00 – 13h00 - Lieu: Cuisine Atout, 1945, rue Mullins
14h00 – 17h00 – Lieu: 6611, AQCPE, rue Jarry Est

Axe thématique 4: Mise en réseau et stratégies de commercialisation

- *Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE)* (réseau de garderie à but non lucratif en économie sociale au Québec, le troisième employeur en importance au Québec)
- *Coopérative de solidarité wwwilliam.coop* (une coopérative de consommateurs desservant environ 900 garderies à travers le Québec – un exemple important d'une stratégie de commercialisation réussie)

**Équipe pédagogique:**

Jean-François Aubin. Responsable des relations internationales, Chantier de l’économie sociale.

Agnès Beaulieu. Directrice générale d’*Insertech* Angus.

Francois Bechard. Directeur gestion humaine et développement organisationnel, La TOHU.


Giancarlo Canzanelli. UNOPS Conseiller technique en développement économique local (ILS LEDA).

Luciano Carrino. Directeur, Comité scientifique inter agence des Nations Unies pour le développement humain

Jacques Charest. Directeur général de la Fiducie du Chantier de l’économie sociale

Céline Charpentier. Directrice générale du Comité sectoriel de main-d’œuvre en action communautaire et en économie sociale.

Jean-Marc Fontan. Département de sociologie, Université du Québec à Montréal.


Patrick Duguay, Président, conseil d'administration, Chantier de l’économie sociale.

Juan-Luis Klein. Département de géographie, Université du Québec à Montréal.

Jean Robitaille. Directeur général de L’Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE).

Johanne Lavoie. Directrice, Secrétariat de l’économie sociale, Ville de Montréal.

Frédéric Lesemann. Institut national de la recherche scientifique – Urbanisation, culture, société.

Benoit Lévesque. Professeur émérite. Université du Québec à Montréal.

Marguerite Mendell. Directrice, Institut d’économie politique Karl Polanyi et professeure à l’École des affaires publiques et communautaires, Université Concordia.

Marie-Hélène Méthé. Directrice-générale adjointe et responsable des relations avec les régions et les réseaux, Chantier de l’économie sociale.


Sara Swartz. Coordinatrice, Programme Universitas, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
Annex 2
LISTE DE PARTICIPANTES / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

WASHINGTON AVALOS BASANTES
Directeur, Développement local, Gouvernement provincial, Carchi Provence, Équateur
Director, Desarrollo local, Gobierno Provincial del Carchi, Ecuador

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Diploma de segundo nivel en Desarrollo económico comunitario, Escuela de Asuntos públicos y comunitarios, Universidad de Concordia

MAURICIO KATZ
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Responsable, Desarrollo socio-económico, programa ART-REDES, Colombia

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Directora, Secretaria de Desarrollo Productivo, Gobierno Provincial Autónomo De El Oro, Ecuador
Vincenzo Milio
Consultant pour la promotion de l’École de formation (ECCA) pour les Centres de services pour les entreprises des femmes (CSEM) et les agences de développement économique (ADEL), El Salvador
Consultor para la promoción de la Escuela de Capacitación (ECCA) para Centros de Servicios para los Emprendimientos de las Mujeres (CSEM) y Agencias de Desarrollo Económico (ADEL), El Salvador.

Martín Eduardo Peña Taveras
Gestionnaire, Agence de développement local Valverde (ADELVA) et Coordinateur, Réseau des Agences de Développement en République Dominicaine (ADELDOM)
Gerente, Agencia de Desarrollo Económico Local de Valverde (ADELVA) y Coordinador, Red de Agencias de Desarrollo Local de República Dominicana. (Red ADELDOM).

Jordi Valls Olivé
Agent, créations de coopératives, Ara_Coop, sccl.; Chercheur, Instituto de Gobierno y Políticas Públicas (IGOP), Université de Barcelona; et Chargé de cours, Escuela de Formación Cooperativa de Cataluña.
Técnico en creación de cooperativas, Ara_Coop, sccl.; Investigador colaborador, Instituto de Gobierno y Políticas Públicas (IGOP); y Docente, Apostra,sccl Escuela de Formación Cooperativa de Cataluña.