

Education for societal change

Planet Workshops GLOBAL CONFERENCE

4th – 5th June 2014, Abbaye de Fontevraud

Several years ago two French journalists set out to form a conference that at distant places confronts corporate decisions makers and NGO activists or social entrepreneurs in order to work jointly on implementation themes. The 9th conference took place in the magnificent Loire region, in a cloister called Abbaye de Fontevraud close to Tours, France. The 2014 thematic set-up was “time to make a choice. “The Social Entrepreneurship Akademie was represented by Dominik.

This year, the Social Entrepreneurship Akademie was part of a Garden Talk hosted by the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN – LINK). Together with Chrisztina Tora from UnLtd, UK and Ding Li from NPI, China, I ran the workshop on „supporting start-up social entrepreneurs, an international approach to sustainable change“. With a group of roughly 25 participants we started pointing out the necessity of having an international network and the learning we share from our incubation practices and acceleration programmes. By asking on scene early stage social entrepreneurs about their wish list of support we discussed the leverage an support agency can produce. Nicolas a young French social entrepreneur who had just started his organisation New CITYzens (www.facebook.com/association.newcityzens) emphasized that he needs intermediaries that are good at bridge building between him and investors or potential corporate partners or that consult him in the go-to-market process. He also emphasized the importance of peer-to-peer learnings in a cohort that incubators can offer.

I also attended a very good panel on citizen participation moderated by Olivier Dubigeon, Founder of Sustainway (France). Notably Mr. Vimlendu, Founder of Sweccha We for change Foundation (India), articulated very strong notions about the impact of citizen voice at the time of global communication processes and on how to organize public pressure for fighting for social causes.

All in all the conference attracted mainly French participants and it did not live up to its claim. For networking purposes it was fine since I met with senior staff of World Bank or corporate decision makers.

Dr. Dominik B. Domnik
June 2014



On GSEN:

The Global Social Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN) is a new platform, initiated by British social entrepreneurship support organization UnLtd, working with social entrepreneurs around the world. It utilises the learning, models and expertise from international best in class members who join. It is designed to be a peer learning service for support agencies, with the potential to open out to social entrepreneurs themselves as a virtual social incubator at a future point. The Social Entrepreneurship Akademie is a member. (www.gsen.unltd.org.uk)

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On Planet Workshops:

The Planetworkshops is an international and independent Think Tank which analyses contemporary and future challenges for a sustainable development. Its vocation is to challenge the life of ideas, encourage intellectual innovation and produce expertise to accompany the long term vision of decision makers. (www.planetworkshops.org/en)

Check out this Video on the Conference: <http://www.globalconference2014.org>

Impressions from the Conference:



The Social Entrepreneurship Akademie was established as a joint initiative by the four university-based entrepreneurship centers in Munich in 2010. Under the slogan „Education for societal change“ this unique network organisation aims to educate social entrepreneurs and social changemakers.