



The 39th World  
Congress of the  
International Institute  
of Sociology  
Yerevan, Armenia

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[www.iisoc.org/iis2009](http://www.iisoc.org/iis2009)

## REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

**Title of Session:** Solidarity Economy: perspectives and experiences towards the construction of different societies

**Name of Session Convener(s):** Igor Vinicius Lima Valentim

**University/Organization incl. City:** Technical University of Lisbon/SOCIUS Research Centre (Lisbon, Portugal) and ECOSOL-CES Research Group (Coimbra, Portugal)

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### **Comments:**

### **Session Abstract (up to 250 words):**

The term Solidarity Economy (SE) is an English translation from the Portuguese *Economia Solidária* and from the French *Economie Solidaire*. The SE encompasses collective initiatives greatly, but not exclusively, related to work and income generation. The examples range from associations of scavengers to cooperatives managed by workers who took control of bankrupt industries.

A unique characteristic of SE organizations is that their daily struggles are grounded in and/or searching for values like solidarity and egalitarianism, which are different from the ones that underlie the capitalist logic. It is not only a matter of looking to what is done but mainly to the ways how it is done.

Arousing increasing interest among academics, SE began being discussed in the 1990's in Latin America, Canada and Europe, and has been expanding its debates globally in the last five years. In 2007, the Philippines hosted the first Asian forum for SE and in early 2009 it will take place the first US national forum dedicated to SE.

The SE is recognized by many as real alternatives to the capitalist logic. The values of its initiatives, their genesis, and the number of people involved, clearly point out the need of deepening and expanding the debates. In this sense, we invite abstracts that explore themes related to the Solidarity Economy. We are particularly interested in papers which critically discuss and analyze different experiences and initiatives recognized as belonging to the Solidarity Economy. Local, national, regional and international perspectives are all welcome.

### **General information**

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.