ANOTHER WORLD ALREADY EXISTS!

TOWARDS A WORLD SOCIAL FORUM OF TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES

FSMET 2020
1. WORLD SOCIAL FORUM OF TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES (WSFTE): ANOTHER WORLD ALREADY EXISTS

The World Social Forum of Transformative Economies (WSFTE) is a convergence process between different movements of alternative economy, called transformative economies, both in local and in international levels.

These social movements and initiatives were built upon the remnants of the “Another World is possible” from the alterglobalization movement and from long historical traditions such as cooperativism and community economies. They share the will to put people and the environment at the centre of the economy, to put an end to an economy based on extractivism, growth, competition and the market, and to struggle towards collaborative, resilient societies which develop and reinforce strategic alliances and actions through working together.

From 2001, these social movements meet up on the World Social Forum to search for alternatives to social challenges caused by neoliberalism and economic globalization, through other objectives. Last World Social Forum took place in Salvador de Bahia (Brasil) in 2018.

In the World Social Forum in Montreal (2016), the decision of organizing an edition of World Social Forum centered in transformative economies in 2020 was approved. The city of Barcelona was chosen to host the event, bearing in mind that Catalonia is a worldwide reference point for cooperativism and the solidarity economy, with a history defined by social struggles.

2. WHAT ARE THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES?

In practice, we realize that this “another possible world” named by alterglobalization movements already exists. From the economics perspective, it is visible in diverse transformative proposals and practices that try to transcend traditional frameworks of capitalism. These initiatives are what we call “transformative economies”.

By transformative economies, we understand all practices for socioeconomic reorganization that bring elements of criticism of the dominant economic framework into play, and that formulate schemes for socioeconomic change.
The fundamental difference between this and the capitalist economic structure is summed up in two principal axes: the sustainability of life (in terms of nature, our bodies and our communities) and the equal distribution of power (the democratic and non-profit-seeking organization of the different ways in which systems of production are organized).

3. WHY DO WE CALL FOR A WORLD SOCIAL FORUM OF TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES?

Although proposals of transformative economies are already working and shaping the “another possible world”, they face some challenges: they are still dispersed, and they lack of a common narrative to allow for the spread of a more clear and attractive message to the population at large. It is essential to propose an inclusive alternative, and to make this mosaic of transformative economies visible as a whole, allowing them to go beyond the marginal position that they currently occupy at the table.

WSFTE wants to unite forces among existing practices and processes of convergence that are already underway, in order to build together a long-term global common agenda which asserts that another world already exists. Also, FSMET proposes to give more public visibility to the transformative economies and to provide an alternative narrative to face the hegemonic capitalist discourse.

4. MOVEMENTS, ACTIONS, CHALLENGES

To organize the different debate areas of transformative economies, the WSFTE will be structured, in its initial phase, around four transformative movements that will try to build their convergences throughout the process: feminist economies and gender perspective, the agroecological movement and for the food sovereignty, the commons (natural, urban, digital and related to knowledge), and the social and solidarity economies. Although each movement is working in a self-defining process, we give some concepts to describe them.

MOVEMENTS

– FEMINIST ECONOMIES AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Feminist economies seek to give visibility to all those activities and practices carried out within the domestic sphere with the purpose of caring for people. These tasks, such as
cleaning the house, cooking, or caring for people in situation of physical dependence (the elderly or children) have generally been assumed by women, while men were concentrated on productive work remunerated out of the domestic spaces. That is what we understand as sexual division of work.

Feminist economies consider that tasks of care are a fundamental basis for the sustainment of life and the assurance of well-being, and propose to place life and all the processes that make it possible in the center of the socioeconomic organization. That means paying attention to the care economy, and the key role of women.

— AGROECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT AND FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Agroecological movement and the movements for food sovereignty are the main movements in defense of land on a global level. They propose a model of food production as a basic piece of the sustainability of life, and they reformulate our relationship with Earth and natural cycles. These movements are linked to others such as ecological economics and the degrowth movement, that criticize current development model.

— THE COMMONS (NATURAL, URBAN, DIGITAL AND RELATED TO KNOWLEDGE)

Economy based on the commons is focused on traditional management of resources, including natural, urban, digital resources and knowledges. It gives importance to the pro bono and reciprocal relationships that function in community networks, and proposes an alternative to the roles on the production, management and assignment of resources in the economical system that have generally been assumed by the State or the market.

— SOLIDARITY ECONOMIES (FAIR TRADE, COOPERATIVISM, ETHICAL FINANCES...)

In social and solidarity economies, common people has an active role to determine the course of all dimensions of human life: economical, social, cultural, political and environmental. It exists in every sector of economy: production, finances, distribution, exchange, consumption and governance. It combines traditional social economy with new practices of self-organization and democratization of the economy. It does not aim for profit, but to provide goods and services to meet people’s needs. It includes fair trade, cooperativism, ethical finances, exchange networks...
TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

From the relationship between these four movements, and others that could be added to the process, the WSFTE will work with different transformative actions that are transversal: the co-construction of public policies (which involves public institutions), or the education and research (which involves agents in the formal education system, as schools or universities, and in the non-formal and popular education). The process is open to new transformative actions to be proposed.

SHARED CHALLENGES

All these discussions will be structured into shared challenges, which WSFTE will try to answer from the transformative movements and actions. In that process will appear convergences between the different agents, that will guide the debates and set the agenda towards 2020.

5. THREE KEY MOMENTS:

Convergence process will have three key moments:

1. INTERNATIONAL MEETING PREPARING WSFTE 2020: 5TH, 6TH & 7TH APRIL 2019

It will be a working meeting with agencies linked to transformative economies, networks and movements to a local and international level. In this first meeting, the aim will be to recognize each agent, set up the challenges to debate, and discuss the process towards 2020. It also intends to define working plans and governance scheme and to validate next steps.

2. WORLD SOCIAL FORUM FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES: 2020

It is proposed as a week of activities, with talks, general assemblies and cultural activities open to the citizenship. It is intended to be a useful networking space between the
movements, where the “another possible world” could be recognized. A **global common agenda about transformative economies**, with collective commitments and specific agreements, will be set as a result of the WSFTE. It is also important to ensure the **continuity** of the convergence process and the mutual recognition between transformative movements and actions.

### 3. Global Common Agenda

Convergence process between movements and transformative actions does not finishes with the WSFTE in 2020, but it will continue in the future based on **shared challenges and networking** between different agents.

### 6. Who Organizes WSFTE?

- **Xarxa de Economia Solidària (XES)** de Catalunya
- **REAS**, Red de Redes de Economia Alternativa y Solidaria
- **RIPESS**, (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy)

An [International Promotion Committee](#) has started to work as a meeting point of big international networks that promote transformative economies, helping to link different movements.

### 7. How Can You Participate?

The process of collective construction of the WSFTE 2020 has already started, and it will be reinforced and expanded after the meeting in 2019.

**ONLINE PLATFORM**

It is possible to participate in the process through an [online platform](#), which will be available from april. It will be a virtual space to put questions and reach agreements between the different actors (organizations, networks) of the transformative economies.
LOCAL CONVERGENCES

Also, there are some local convergences going on, as spaces to bring together different actors of transformative economies in diverse territories, who organize themselves to work together and stimulate their participation and contribution to the WSFTE process.

AND... SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE WSFTE 2020 IN YOUR COUNTRY!

We want to be many people from all over the world in WSFTE 2020, so it’s so important that it reaches everyone!

8. CONTACTS

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