

Szolidáris Gazdálkodás Központ - Solidarity Economy Center, Budapest

Solidarity Economy Center (Budapest) is a young organization that facilitates solidarity economy as a means to create social power for just transition. We understand this transition as a democratic, regenerative alternative to the increasingly violent, exploitative answers to the economic and ecological crisis. In our work, we thematize the present global crisis from the practical standpoint of solidarity solutions and prioritize real-world collaborations as tools for building politics.



Since 2018, the Center created and coordinates a nation-wide network of solidarity economy enterprises, and does research, expert advice, and network building to promote and scale local solidarity economy models. Politically, the aim of the Center includes creating movement connections and sharing agendas as well as building actual economic collaborations. Existing solidarity economy models serve as inspiration, resources and tools for this larger political movement. Besides institutionalized models, our work also relies on the long-term, and in the current setting, increasingly wide-spread informal practices of solidarity economy in our region.

- cooperative housing: working together with the National Union of Pedagogical Workers and the critical urbanism thinktank Periphery Center, the Center will do research and prepare a union-coop model for cheap and sustainable cooperative housing for the members of the union
- care work: working together with the Union of Nursery Workers and the Women's Section of the Metalworkers Union at Mercedes, Kecskemét, the Center will do research for developing institutions which ease the burden of social reproduction on women workers
- community supported agriculture: the Center works to link the different constituencies around Gólya Community House, a physical center for Budapest left movement groups, and Gyüttment, a fast-growing network of climate-conscious small farmers
- energy democracy: together with Friends of the Earth Hungary and Gólya Community House, the Center will develop a community energy project on Gólya. The project is prepared to serve as a legal, financial and technical model for community energy that will be promoted nation-wide, once the obligatory harmonization of the legal environment with EU energy law happens in 2022.
- movement ecology: together with Free Budapest, a political group coming from left movements that supported the campaign of several independent candidates on the 2019 local elections, the Center initiated a coordination forum for left initiatives in Hungary. With 20 organizations, the forum started with a discussion of immediate strategies after the elections, and will continue with a series of discussions that serve to coordinate aims and agendas.
- communication campaign: with left journal Fordulat, the Center is preparing a journal issue on the politics of solidarity economy, to be published in April 2020. A 5-month targeted

communication campaign and a larger meeting in September 2020 will serve to create a broader understanding and larger partnership around solidarity answers to the crisis.



The picture was taken at a workshop of the second plenary meeting of the Solidarity Economy Network, organized by the Center for Cooperation. The event took place at Helló Anyu community center, Budapest, July 2019