



International conference Bochum/ Germany, 8th – 9th may 2014

# Mobilising Social Finance globally Learning from each other

Mobiliser la finance sociale à l'échelle mondiale – apprendre les uns des autres  
La movilización de las finanzas sociales a nivel mundial – aprender los unos de los otros



This event will be exceptional because we shall celebrate jointly 25 years of INAISE, 35 years of Oikocredit Westdeutscher Förderkreis and 40 years of GLS Bank in Germany

The International Association of Investors in the Social Economy, INAISE organises the 2014 International Conference of Social and Solidarity Finance (Thursday 8th May) together with a field visit/ roundtrip around the topic “Education and Cooperatives” (Friday 9th May). These events to which you are cordially invited will be held thanks to the invitation issued by GLS Bank, Oikocredit and the Institute for Social Banking, in Bochum, Germany. The conference topic is “Mobilising social finance globally - learning from each other”.

This event will be exceptional because we shall celebrate jointly 25 years of INAISE, 35 years of Oikocredit Westdeutscher Förderkreis and 40 years of GLS Bank in Germany.

The purpose of this INAISE event is to create a space for international convergence efforts on social and solidarity finance to give visibility to the different practices of finance promoting the development of the social and solidarity economy.

This conference will provide a space of exchange, analysis and dialogue between participants from very different contexts and environments, however, sharing visions and trajectories with converging approaches. It addresses four topics articulating the challenges and issues of social and solidarity finance: cooperatives, agriculture, renewable energies and solidarity activities.

## About the event organizers:

**INAISE** (the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy) is a global network of socially and environmentally oriented financial institutions. Through INAISE, social investors from all over the world have been joining forces to exchange experience, disseminate information and show that money can actually be used to achieve positive social and environmental change.

The **GLS Bank** was the first social and ecological bank in Germany. GLS stands for „community bank for loans and gifts“ and was founded in 1974. It currently finances around cultural, social and ecological 20'000 projects and businesses focusing by developing creative solutions.

**Oikocredit** is one of the world's largest sources of private funding to the microfinance sector, providing credit and equity to trade cooperatives, fair trade organisations and small to medium enterprises.

**The Institute for Social Banking** promotes a concept of finance and banking orienting itself towards a perception of and responsibility for the development of both people and planet.



# Programme

Wednesday, 7th May

2 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. **INAISE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (only for INAISE members)

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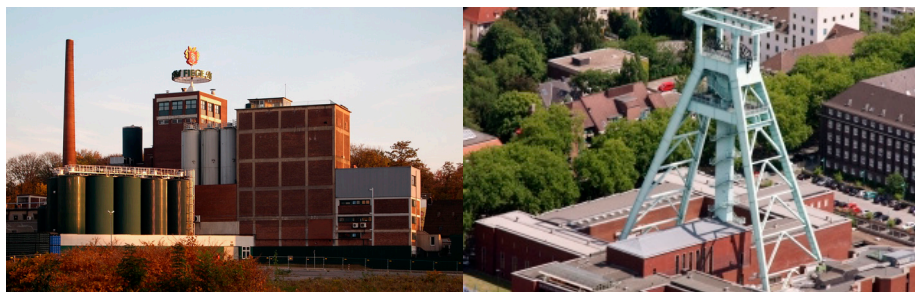
During the day: [Arrival of participants / Check-In at the hotels](#)

For all who will arrive at an early stage: Bochum sightseeing to FIEGE brewery and the coal mining museum / Morning guided tours and talks at GLS Bank

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7.00 p.m. Welcome dinner for conference participants at GLS Bank

11.00 p.m. [Latest bus shuttles to the hotels](#)



Thursday, 8th May

## INAISE CONFERENCE

### “WORLD CAFÉ” MOBILISING SOCIAL FINANCE GLOBALLY – LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

- 9.00 a.m. Inscription at GLS Bank
- 9.30 a.m. Introduction / opening speeches (Dominique Lesaffre, Andreas Neukirch)
- 10.00 a.m. [Coffee break](#)
- 10.30 a.m. **1st “World Café”** – two topics (cooperatives and agriculture) in three languages (English, Spanish, French)
- 11.45 a.m. Summary of Part 1 of the “World Café”, response to the challenges
- 12.30 p.m. [Lunch break](#)
- 2.00 p.m. **2nd “World Café”** – two topics (renewable energies and solidarity activities) in three languages (English, Spanish, French)
- 3.15 p.m. Moderated summary of Part 2 of the “World Café”, response to the challenges
- 4.00 p.m. [Coffee break](#)
- 4.30 p.m. Plenary conclusion
- 5.30 p.m. Closing / speech and invitation to next year's conference
- 5.30 – 7.30 p.m. Time to freshen up and change clothes
- 7.30 p.m. [Pick up from the hotels](#)
- 8.00 p.m. Dinner at the “Rohrmeisterei” in Schwerte



Friday, 9th May

## FIELD VISIT / ROUNDTRIP: EDUCATION AND COOPERATIVES

- 9.00 a.m. [Pick up from the hotels](#)
- 11.00 a.m. Guided tour to Alanus University in Alfter near Bonn
- 12.30 p.m. Vegetarian Lunch at Alanus University
- 2.00 p.m. Departure to Mayschoss in the valley of the Ahr:  
Visit of the oldest winegrower cooperative of the world
- 3.00 p.m. Guided tour to the vineyard, visiting the wine-museum, winetasting
- 6.00 p.m. Departure to Cologne – Meeting ends at the main station/ Dom cathedral



Concerning the topics of the world cafés see page3.

# INAISE World Cafe sessions

## Questions we'd like to address:

### On the solidarity economy:

Civil society and solidarity matter. Research shows us that solidarity and social capital matter to the broader health of our societies and economies. They are not panaceas but do lie at the heart of progressive social change. The recent crises have prompted a widespread desire for change. Is now the time for increased transparency and accountability of financial institutions? For enhanced pluralism in the financial sector which respects difference? To increase the power and voice of civil society, to mobilise citizens? To achieve a rapid and just transition to a low carbon economy? Democratising media ownership and content? And strengthening very local democracy to respect the rights of minorities and excluded peoples?

### On cooperatives

Cooperatives are experiencing a worldwide renaissance in many sectors of the economy - from banking to energy business. Many consider them an alternative model of a fairer and more sustainable economy. Both many investors in the social economy and numerous businesses that need investments are organized as cooperatives. The cooperative idea provides common ground to players in social finance and the real economy. Cooperatives are also remarkable economic actors because they offer their members the right and opportunity to participate in decision-making. At least that is the idea. However, how does reality look like? What challenges does the ideal of participation pose in cooperatives? How can cooperatives strike a working balance between economic competitiveness and democratic decision-making?

### On renewable energies

The growing demand for energy continues to increase worldwide. An energy supply that is viable for the future should be decentralized, renewable and organized democratically. Grass-root participation has an important role to play as well as measures to increase energy efficiency and to reduce consumption. How can we achieve more and more social acceptance which is mandatory for a turnaround in energy policies?

### On agriculture

A healthy soil is the basis for our existence. These days, we are producing more food than ever before. But there is a downside to the global system of our current food production: Genetically engineered seeds and excessive use of fertilizers in conventional farming lead to unpredictable consequences for our environment, headlines regarding food scandals and intensive livestock farming are raising ethical questions as well. The phenomenon of landgrabbing has expanded to northern countries. Which challenges, which issues are we facing in different countries and how can we address them?



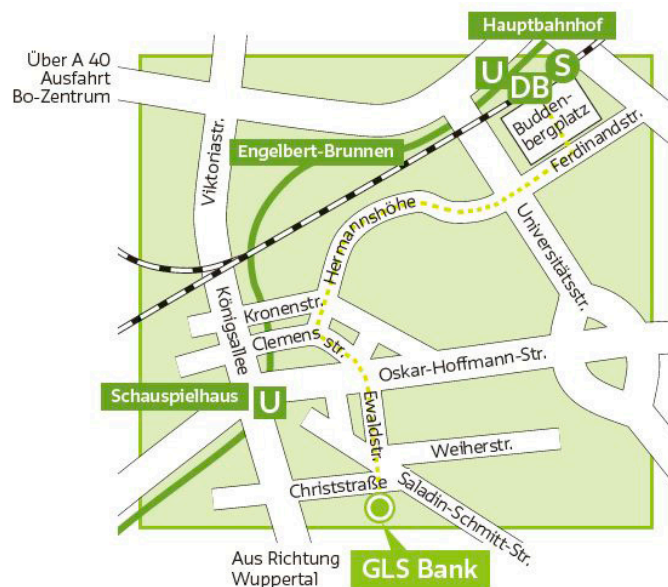
# Venue

By feet from Bochum Central station (about 15 min.)

You leave Bochum Hauptbahnhof through the exit "Buddenbergplatz". You walk up the stairs and reach the Ferdinandstraße, which you follow to the right at the crossing with the Universitätsstraße. You are now in the street called Hermannshöhe which you follow until the end. There you turn left into the Clemensstraße and walk until the Oskar-Hoffmann-Straße. You cross this street and continue straight forward until the Ewaldstraße. At the end of this street you turn left into the Saladin-Schmitt-Straße and turn right immediately into the Christstraße. There you'll find the big red GLS Bank building on your left.

By underground (U-Bahn) from Bochum Central station

From Bochum Hauptbahnhof you take the U-Bahn-line 308 or 318 (in the direction Hattingen or Bochum-Dahlhausen) and quit at the second station (Schauspielhaus). You leave the station through the exit „Schauspielhaus/Königsallee“ and walk straight over the crossing with red lights to reach the square in front of the big theater building. You enter the street on the left of the theater (Saladin-Schmitt- Straße). After about 300 meters there is the Christstraße on your right. There you'll find the big red GLS Bank building on your left.



# Inscription

Participation fee:

200 Euro

(Free of charge for the 1st delegate of INAISE member organisations)

The fee includes:

Catering at GLS Bank as well as lunch at Alanus University and the bus transfers.

Inscription and hotel reservation:

[www.inaise.org](http://www.inaise.org)

[coordination.inaise@gmail.com](mailto:coordination.inaise@gmail.com)

Venue

GLS Bank

Christstraße 9

44789 Bochum

Germany

# INAISE Members

