

# PRESENTATION

**F**EBEA is the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks, an international non for profit association incorporated under belgian law, created in Brussels in 2001 by Crédit Coopératif (France), Caisse Solidaire du Nord Pas-de-Calais (France), Crédal (Belgium), Hefboom (Belgium), Banca Etica (Italy) and TISE (Poland).

## **Developing the ethical and solidarity-based finance in Europe in a concrete way**

**I**n June 2009, FEBEA federates 25 members based across 11 European Union and 2 EFTA countries. These 11 banks, 6 savings and loan cooperatives, 5 investment companies and 3 foundations can all together account for a balance sheet of € 21 billion and have some 528 000 clients and shareholders between them. They have different legal forms but they all share the same concern for transparency and social and environmental utility.

**I**n addition to being a place for exchanges and sharing experiences, FEBEA aims to create financial tools able to help existing European initiatives and encourage the growth of new initiatives in the field of alternative finance.

## **Creating alternative financial tools hand in hand**

**U**p to today, FEBEA developed diversified tools:

- the guarantee fund "Solidarity Guarantee", managed by Credit Coopératif in France
- the investment fund "Solidarity Choice", managed by the Credit Coopératif's asset management company (France)
- the financing company "SEFEA: Société Européenne de Finance Ethique et Alternative European" – European Ethical and Alternative Financing Company, managed by Banca Popolare Etica in Padova (Italy)

## **Working together towards a European dynamic**

**I**n addition to these concrete products, FEBEA implemented several commissions and working groups on subjects such as "Financing the South and Fair Trade", "Financing Healthcare Infrastructures and Social Services in Europe" and "Sustainable Development". The final aim is to design new tools to address the challenges peculiar to each group.

**F**EBA wants to give support to ethical and alternative finance and all responsible entrepreneurs from the sector of social and solidarity-based economy for whom the access to the traditional banking system is often hampered.

**F**EBA's members exchange best practices and encourage mutual learning between their networks of social and solidarity-based economy. It's resolutely a European approach of ethical and alternative finance that leads their way.

# MEMBERS

## APS Bank Ltd - Malta

APS Bank was established in 1910 as one of the projects set up by l'Unione Cattolica San Giuseppe. It was intended mainly to inculcate savings habits amongst the working classes. Since then its role has developed and evolved. As a matter of fact the Bank managed to position itself as a cost efficient financial institution, whilst retaining personal banking as its major strength. Its mission statement is to offer quality financial services in an efficient, cost effective and ethical way inspired by the social commitment of our shareholders. Customer focus, employee development and innovation are the drivers of their success.

Thanks to its subsidiary, APS Consult Ltd, the Bank offers support and consulting services to all entities involved in fields in restructuration (agriculture, fishing, education, sports, culture).

Total Assets: 669 M euros

[www.apsbank.com.mt](http://www.apsbank.com.mt)

## BANCA POPOLARE ETICA - Italy

The idea behind *Banca Etica* consists in creating a place where savers, driven by the common desire of a more transparent and responsible management of financial resources, may meet socio-economic initiatives, inspired by the values of a sustainable social and human development.

The bank manages savings raised from private citizens, as singles or families, organisations, companies and institutions in general, and invests them in initiatives pursuing both social and economic objectives, operating in full respect of human dignity and the environment.

In such context *Banca Etica* sets out to educate both savers and borrowers by enhancing the awareness of the formers about their saving's destination, and encouraging the latter to develop their management and entrepreneurial abilities.

*Banca Etica* is the first institution of ethical finance in Italy. The bank's solid roots are to be found in the world of the third sector organisations, of voluntary work and of international cooperation.

The first experience of ethically oriented finance in Italy is represented by the MAG co-operative societies (self-management mutual associations): their traditional aim is to raise savings among their members and to finance "socially oriented projects".

In 1999, *Banca Etica* opened its first branch office in Padova.

Today the Bank counts on 11 branch offices and a wide-spread network of financial promoters called "banchieri ambulanti",

Total Assets : 612 M euros

[www.bancaetica.com](http://www.bancaetica.com)

## Bank Für Sozialwirtschaft - Germany

Founded in 1923 by the six non-statutory welfare organisations, the BFS is a bank which offers financial services especially to the social and health sector. As a bank with a general vocation, it offers loans and credits, investments and payment transactions.

However, it is particularly geared towards organisations and institutions in the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sector. Furthermore, the BFS offers advice on all questions relating to banking, management and financing. The BFS is a non-quoted joint-stock company. The principal shareholders are in particular the Workers Welfare Association, the German Red Cross, the German Caritas Association, the welfare services of the German Protestant Church, the Association of Non-affiliated Charities and the Central Welfare Agency of the Jews.

Total Assets : 5 200 M euros

[www.sozialbank.de](http://www.sozialbank.de)



## Banque alternative suisse BAS - Switzerland

ABS, the Alternative Bank founded in 1990, works on ethical principles, not for maximum profit. It totally rejects tax evasion and is devoted to complete transparency. It promotes solidarity between lenders and borrowers and actively supports equal opportunities for women. ABS offers its clients traditional banking products and issues loans for bio-agriculture, sustainable habitats and renewable energy, as well as lending to small and medium-sized companies that are active in the environment and in fair or social commerce.

Total Assets : 551 M euros

[www.bas-info.ch](http://www.bas-info.ch)



## BBK SOLIDARIOA FUNDAZIOA - Spain

BBK Solidarioa is a foundation, founded by BBK (Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa), a savings bank which operates in Viscaye, Spain.

BBK Solidarioa aims at making financial services accessible to all persons. Therefore, they collect money thanks to a specific deposit and invest it in personal, professional and social projects.

The operations financed by BBK Solidarioa must correspond to certain ethical, social and sustainability criteria.

BBK Solidarioa helps excluded people to access the financial system thanks to solidarity-based financial tools that enable them to invest in personal professional or social projects.

BBK (the savings bank in Bilbao) counts 428 branches. The budget for BBK Solidarioa fundazioa reached 16 M euros

[www.bbk.es](http://www.bbk.es)



## Caisse Solidaire du Nord Pas-de-Calais – France

The Caisse Solidaire was created in October 1997.

Located in a region steeped in industrial tradition, its vocation is to finance the projects of people setting up very small businesses with limited access to obtain credit, as well as any creator of innovative projects which generate employment in the organisations sector.

On a more general level, the Caisse Solidaire's vocation is to finance any project that falls within the domain of solidarity-based economy.

Its resources are provided by solidarity savers who accept a reduced return on their money.

The Caisse Solidaire offers two investment options:

- a Solidarity Savings Account of a 2-year duration at a rate of 2% to 0%
- a Solidarity Savings Book, liquid savings, at a rate of 1% or 0%

Total Assets : 9 M euros

[www.caisse-solidaire.org](http://www.caisse-solidaire.org)

## Cassa Centrale Banca Trentine - Italy



The Trento Rural Banks network is comprised of 54 rural banks, which make up more than 60% of the market share of the province of Trentino. There are approximately 83,000 members and more than 200,000 clients. The Federation of Trento Cooperatives is coupled with the Central Bank of Rural Banks in Trento, which offers the entire Group technical support by providing financial and commercial products and services.

Total Assets : 1 877 M euros

[www.cassacentrale.it](http://www.cassacentrale.it)



## Charity Bank – United-Kingdom

Established in 2002, following a successful pilot loan fund experience, Charity Bank is a registered charity and a fully regulated bank. It is a social enterprise dedicated to unlocking personal and corporate liquidity as a source of affordable finance for on-lending to charities and social enterprises. Through its actions it seeks to change attitudes and to develop a social finance market in the space between grants and commercial finance. In 2003, it became the first bank to be accredited by the UK Government under the community investment tax relief, a system whereby the Government provides a fiscal incentive for investment into disadvantaged communities through accredited community finance intermediaries.

Charity Bank's focus is presently in the UK but is seeking to build a network of trusted intermediaries around the world capable of adopting common values to social investment.

Total Assets : 56 M euros

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



## COLONYA, Caixa Pollença - Spain

The Colonya, Caixa Pollença Savings Bank , was founded in 1880 by Guillem Cifre de Colonya, a lawyer and also a pedagogue who established in Pollença the Free Education Institution and also Pollença's own Savings Bank as well as more other projects destinated to modernize and improve socially and culturally his own town.

Actually Colonya, Caixa Pollença maintains 15 open offices all around the Balearic Islands, promoting the social, cultural and economical developing of its around, so long with its activities as a Financial Company as well as through its "Guillem Cifre de Colonya Foundation", which works for the social , cultural and assistencial ambit of its around.

Total Assets : 14 M euros

[colonya.grdar.com](http://colonya.grdar.com)

## GROUPE CREDAL - Belgium



The Crédal Group is an organization for alternative credit and has developed three product lines:

- 1) credits and risk financing for organizations in the area of solidarity finance: socio-professional inclusion on the labour market, fair trade, workers' cooperatives, medical organisations, help for the homeless, social housing;
- 2) Micro credit available for selfemployed persons who do not have access to banking facilities and who wish to create or develop their own professional activities;
- 3) Social Consumer credit: for needy personsrequiring the basics in life that the banks refuse to finance.

Total Assets : 19 M euros

[www.credal.be](http://www.credal.be)

## Crédit Coopératif - France



Crédit Coopératif is a French cooperative bank set up in the 19th century. The bank is a pioneer of solidarity-based finance with the largest existing range of ethical and solidarity-based banking products and investments. Several of these products known as "sharing products" provide a way for non profit organisations to collect funds.

Crédit Coopératif is owned by its clients, mainly businesses and social economy organisations, associations, cooperatives, friendly societies, trade unions, work councils, housing associations and small and medium-sized businesses. It has been a member of Groupe Banque Populaire since 2003, with a leading position in the field of social economy and microfinance.

Total Assets : 11 700 M euros

[www.credit-cooperatif.coop](http://www.credit-cooperatif.coop)



## Cultura Bank - Norway

Cultura Bank was founded in 1997 as a savings bank following some years existence as a credit union. The bank's goal is to contribute to a better society through the financing of projects with a positive environmental, cultural and social impact. The bank today has more than 2000 clients from all over Norway. 60 % of the lending volume is commercial, the balance is mainly comprised of housing loans to private clients who use the bank as their main bank for savings and current accounts. Cultura Bank is also active in the area of micro finance aimed at immigrant and women entrepreneurs. The bank offers internet banking facilities as well as banking cards to its clients.

Total Assets : 43 M euros

[www.cultura.no](http://www.cultura.no)



## ETIMOS - Italie

Consorzio Etimos

Etimos is a consortium that collects savings in Italy in support of micro-entrepreneurial experiences and microfinance programmes in developing countries and in the areas of economic crisis: from Latin America to Africa, from Eastern Europe to Asia. Founder of Banca Etica with which it works in tight partnership and shares its principles and aims, Etimos has set itself two ambitious goals: universally permit access to credit – even within the most degraded socio-economic contexts – and stimulate ethically-oriented choices for saving by sparking real, fair financial paths between the northern and southern world.

Total Assets : 28 M euros

[www.etimos.it](http://www.etimos.it)



## EKOBANKEN - Sweden

Ekobanken Medlemsbank

Ekobanken is a social, ethical bank that offers full banking service for organisations and savings and loans to private persons. Our savings accounts all have an ethical profile and we offer accounts for both regularly savings and long-term investments. Ekobanken has extensive experience of the social economy in Sweden and effective tools for financing businesses and projects. The bank is spread throughout the country and is locally represented through voluntary representatives. Ekobanken is a democratic, cooperative bank focusing on creating value for its members. Ekobanken is the only bank of its kind in Sweden.

Total Assets : 31 M euros

[www.ekobanken.se](http://www.ekobanken.se)

## FEMU QUI - France



Femu Qui is a regional capital investment company. What makes it different from other traditional companies working with risk capital is that it does not only envisage high financial profitability. The company invests in minority interests in all branches of industry, in creativity and the development of companies. Femu Qui's objective is to make a concrete contribution to economic development in Corsica, through the mobilization of the popular savings schemes, through job creation in Corsica, while setting priorities such as the reduction of economic dependence and the development of local resources.

Total Assets : 4 M euros

[www.femu-quì.com](http://www.femu-quì.com)



## Fiare - Spain

Fiare is the name of a Basque Foundation. By February 2006, 63 organizations - NGOs, Christian groups, educational institutions ... - had already joined the FIARE Foundation. Representatives of all the member organizations - the 52 founding ones and those joining thereafter - form together a consulting body called the "Founders and Collaborators'Assembly".

The main goal of FIARE (acronym for "Fundación Inversión y Ahorro Responsable) is to promote socially responsible savings and investment among both private individuals and institutions. FIARE took up the challenge to explore the possibility of creating an Ethical Bank supported by Spanish organizations involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, international cooperation, education and social economy.

Total Assets : 1 M euros

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



## Fundació Caixa Catalunya - Espagne

Entity created on February 2000 by Caixa Catalunya within the framework of its Social Work, recovering the original spirit of savings banks to economically promote the most underprivileged and excluded social collectives. The foundation aims:

- To impel projects in favour of the excluded collectives, supporting all the enterprises that combine social integration with business cost-effectiveness and profitability.
- To offer technical and financial support to microfinance programmes of the South countries.
- To raise awareness among members of society about situations of poverty, marginalisation, exclusion and social injustice.

The budget for Un Sol Mon reached 11 M euros.

[obrasocial.caixacatalunya.com](http://obrasocial.caixacatalunya.com)



## HEFBOOM - Belgium

Hefboom is an independent business which aims to promote the creation and development of "solidarity enterprises" (or socially responsible enterprises) in Flanders and Brussels by supplying them with professional services in the realms of financing, business advice and managerial support. It sees this as a way of increasing solidarity in society in general and the economic sphere in particular.

How do we accomplish our mission?

- 1) We offer financing opportunities, business advice and managerial support to solidarity enterprises.
- 2) We supply savers and investors with ethically sound financial products through which they can invest in solidarity enterprises.
- 3) We use a variety of means to publicize the concept of solidarity enterprises to increase the receptiveness of economic spheres, public authorities and the media.
- 4) We run Hefboom itself as a solidarity enterprise.

Total Assets : 23 M euros

[www.hefboom.be](http://www.hefboom.be)



## INTEGRA CO-OP - Slovakia

The Integra Co-operative was formed in 1995 in Slovakia as the first solidarity finance investment vehicle in Slovakia. Integra has two main types of investment: microenterprises for women at risk and social enterprises with a clear CSR strategy. Working together with the Integra Foundation (a partner NGO), Vernus offers financial services (microcredit, equity) while Integra offers a range of business development services, including consulting, business plan development and market access. Vernus also carries out technical assistance projects for other social economy institutions in Central and Eastern Europe.

Total Assets : 1 M euros

[www.integra.sk](http://www.integra.sk)



## LA NEF – France

La Nef is a banking organisation involved in ethical finance. Its purpose is to build a direct link between savers and borrowers who carry out sustainable projects meeting social and ecological criterias. As a cooperative, la Nef collects savings from its co-operators through current accounts and deposit accounts; it grants loans to organisations in the social, environmentally friendly and cultural sectors. La Nef welcomes all citizens requiring an ethical use of money and willing to promote the development of an economy that is respectful of human beings and the environment. La Nef has been carrying out and developing its activities for 18 years. It is controlled and approved by the French Central Bank.

Total Assets : 183 M euros

[www.lanef.com](http://www.lanef.com)



## MERKUR BANK - Denmark

Merkur Cooperative Bank was founded 1982. Merkur is present in the four biggest cities of Denmark, which are Copenhagen, Aalborg, Århus et Odense (branch opened in 2007). At the end of 2007, the Bank had more than 12000 clients and more than 2 500 co-operators. Merkur grants loans to the following types of projects:

- 1) Environment: organic farming and food, alternative energy, green technology.
- 2) Education and culture: Free schools, nurseries, education, culture.
- 3) Social Responsibility: Institutions and houses for mentally deficient or other disadvantaged people.
- 4) Village communities: projects striving towards a wholeness in housing, energy, social life etc.
- 5) Fair trade financing with lending to co-operatives and other producers in the developing countries through order based pre financing credits.

Total Assets : 157 M euros

[www.merkurbank.dk](http://www.merkurbank.dk)



## OEKOGENO eG – Germany

OEKOGENO e.G. is a co-operative based in Freiburg (Germany).

The cooperative has 16 000 members and 3,7 million euros of equity.

Oekogeno's structure is divided in 3 parts:

Oekogeno e.G, the cooperative that offers financial services (consulting, ecologic financial products and investments combination) and other services (holidays' accommodations, organic products) to its members.

Oekogeno GmbH Project that proposes funds dedicated to the financing of renewable energies projects (3 "solar" funds already created)

Oekogeno GmbH Participation that directly invests in ecologic and sustainable companies through equity

Total Assets : 3.5 M euros

[www.oekogeno.de](http://www.oekogeno.de)



## SIDI - France

### INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

SIDI is a limited company which was created in 1983 by the CCFD (Catholic committee against hunger and for development) to extend and diversify its action in the economic field.

SIDI is an organisation specialized in offering financial and technical support to local financial institutions, in southern and eastern countries, that provide financial services to small entrepreneurs, excluded of the banking system since they don't have any collateral or proper fund.

The objective is to promote long term economic initiatives and to contribute to a more socially based economy and sustainable development.

Total Assets : 17 M euros

[www.sidi.fr](http://www.sidi.fr)

## **SIFA - France**

### **FRANCE ACTIVE INVESTMENT COMPANY**

SIFA is a social investment company, belonging to the France Active association's network. Its objective is to reinforce the capital of job creating enterprises (notably for persons in vulnerable socio-economic situations) and structures of social utility. Its shareholders are pension funds, large enterprises, mutual funds, and financial institutions that wish to support the development of the social economy based upon the principle of solidarity.

The support provided by SIFA is destined for financing investments and/or revolving funds linked to the creation and development of enterprises. It intervenes through the form of current account and participatory loans to associates or more rarely, through capital investments (with an undertaking to buy back its shares after 5 years).

Amount: 5000 € to 320 000 €

Duration: 5 years, differed for 2 years in the case of repayments of associate current account or participatory loans (interest rate of 2%).

Total Assets : 28 M euros

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

## **TISE - Poland**

The TISE S.A is a capital investment company created in 1991 by the Bank BISE, SIDI and the Foundation FISE (Poland). Tise is now fully owned by Crédit Coopératif.

Total Assets : 2.5 M euros

## TOOLS

### SEFEA

#### Presentation

The European Cooperative of Ethical and Alternative Finance (S.E.F.E.A.) is a financial cooperative incorporated under Italian law in 2002, whose members are organisations and credit institutions, cooperatives and companies that aim to promote a sustainable economy and ethical and alternative finance. It was created by 10 FEBEA members. Since then 16 additional partners joined SEFEA. SEFEA's equity amounts to 4 056 000 € in 2009. The main members are Crédit Coopératif (FR), La Nef (FR), Coopfond (IT) (fund that supports cooperatives based in the South of Italy), Banca Etica (IT) and the Casse Rurale di Trento (IT). At the start of June 2009, SEFEA invested about 6 million Euros.



#### The main objectives of SEFEA are:

- Support and develop Social Economy, Cooperative Sector and Alternative Finance in Europe;
- support a model of economic, environmental, human and social development based on values of civil solidarity
- Provide existing ethical and alternative financial institutions or in the making with financial support and consultancy
- Help and support the creation of financial institutions corresponding to the principles of social and solidarity based finance
- Finance the development of European-range projects and activities which contribute to the social and economic development, the protection of the environmental, cultural and human patrimony in every country of the European Union

#### SEFEA intervenes through financial instruments and can provide non financial services:

- Bringing corporate capital;
- Granting short-term and long-term loans;
- Creating innovative financial instruments for ethical finance in the Southern part of the World;
- Participating in investment funds specialised in the support of social cooperation at a European level (for example : CoopEst, which intervenes in Eastern and Central Europe to strengthen existing financial institutions for social economy);
- Providing training, technical assistance, support and promotion;
- Any tool that can finance actors in the field of fair trade and organic agriculture.
- Non financial services correspond to different interventions in European projects in the field of ethical finance and social economy. For example SEFEA has been an active partner for managing a 5.7M€ European Commission subsidy called « Global Subsidy Pouilles » dedicated to third sector organisations. The subsidy aims to promote and support social cooperation in that region.

## SOLIDARITY GUARANTEE

The « Solidarity Guarantee » is a mutual guarantee fund implemented in 2002 in the name of FEBEA. Crédit Coopératif (FR) is in charge of its management.

A guarantee fund has no legal personality. Guarantees are granted to beneficiaries of loans distributed by a financial institution authorized by FEBEA, based in Europe that agreed on an appropriate and specific convention with the fund.

On 31/12/2008, 11 institutions authorized by FEBEA (among which BFS - DE, CREDAL -BE, HEFBOOM - BE, La NEF - FR) are using the mutual guarantee fund. 294 guarantees were outstanding for a total amount of 4.9 millions euros.

The guarantee is granted after the decision-making body gives its agreement and the deposit of a subscription to the fund. The fund is made of :

- All the beneficiaries' deposits, mutualised (Section A)
- Subsidies or deposits from public and private organisations which would like to support the fund, mutualised in section A
- And the deposits brought by the sponsors, which are not mutualised and only cover the risks of their own loans, managed according to specific conventions.

An internal set of rules, ratified by FEBEA and Crédit Coopératif and all individual separate conventions govern the mutual guarantee fund management.

## SOLIDARITY CHOICE INVESTMENT FUND

Solidarity Choice is a mutual socially responsible investment fund under French law, which includes a solidarity-based envelop. A minimum of 5% until 10% of the portfolio is invested in social and alternative european companies which are not quoted on stock-exchange, in order to support their growth. The whole portfolio of the fund is managed according to financial and extra financial criteria, in other words according to a socially responsible active approach.

Solidarity Choice was created in 2002 in order to finance social and alternative companies close to FEBEA surroundings. It is managed by Ecofi Investissements, Credit Coopératif's asset management subsidiary.



In July 2009, the total amount of net asset reached 30.29 millions euros. This mutual investment fund is diversified and its solidarity-based portfolio amounts to 2.6 millions euros, which corresponded to 8.6% of net assets. The 16 social and alternative companies that are beneficiary of its intervention lead projects in the following sectors :

- Micro-finance, social and alternative finance (ADIE, NEF, Caisse Solidaire Nord-pas-de-Calais)
- Not-for-profit retiring houses (Pierre Angulaire)
- Healthcare and social services (Bank für Sozialwirtschaft - DE)
- Social housing (Habitats solidaires, Chênelet Insertion, SCIC Finantoit)
- Assistance and support to the creation and follow-up of projects of enterprises (Boutiques de Gestion de Paris IdF)
- Handicap (Websourd)
- Renewable Energies (Enercoop)
- Fair Trade (Alter Eco, Max Havelaar, SCOP Ethiquable)
- North-South cooperation (ACTED, Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières)

4 FEBEA's members were beneficiary of this tool since it was created. The fund gave financial means to strengthen their development. BFS (Germany) and Caisse Solidaire du Nord-Pas-de-Calais are still part of the current solidarity-based portfolio of Solidarity Choice.