

**Congress "Solidarity Economy in globalized Capitalism" a huge success
Berlin, 24 to 26 November 2006**

**Press communication by ATTAC-Germany and by the Preparatory Committee
Of the Congress**

With 1400 registered participants, more than the double of the number of people expected to come, arrived at the congress "How do we want to shape our economy? Solidarity Economy in globalized capitalism". The congress was an enormous success, said Dagmar Embshoff from the Bewegungsakademie (Academy of Movements), one of those institutions that prepared the congress. "There is a new generation of young people which has discovered the projects and concepts of solidarity economy for themselves" Thus a bridge was built by which they were connected with the projects of the older generation. Besides different sectors of solidarity economy there were many activists from social movements, amongst them many international guests. [more]

Solidarity economy is more than an answer to poverty: this was one of the impressions you could gather in more than 100 events and meetings. It is not just the intention to make growing inequality more bearable, according to the organisers of the congress. Moreover projects of solidarity economy open up new spaces for action for those active in this movement, create a new form of economy and articulate the demands for social rights.

Public policies for this economic sector are very poor in Germany compared to internationally. Differing from European and Latin American countries such as France, Italy, Brazil and Venezuela, an active political backing is missing, and this was criticised by the speakers in different meetings. Compared to other legal figures, cooperatives are even in disadvantage. Takeovers of insolvent enterprises by their employees are neither backed up by policies nor by trade unions.

The organisers of the congress hope that there will be a wider supply of training for solidarity economy as initiated by the congress. During the congress lecturers from different universities organised in order to supply more corresponding courses.

The preparatory committee of the congress will carry on with their work, consolidate and enlarge communication on solidarity economy and within about two years again organize a large event. Considering the enormous interest congress shall become an institution. A documentation of the congress will be edited in few months. Furthermore there will be a series of conferences in order to carry the message of the congress into the regions. The Website www.solidarische-oekonomie.de will become a communication platform and the corresponding e-mail list will continue to be developed.

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The Congress « How do we want to shape our economy? Solidarity economy in globalized capitalism" was prepared by Bewegungsakademie, Attac Germany, Bundeskongress Internationalisms (BUKO), Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft, Contraste, the DGB Berlin Brandenburg trade union, the European Network for economic self-help and local development, Netz für Selbstverwaltung und Selbstorganisation, Netzwerk Grundeinkommen, Netzwerk Selbsthilfe, Weltladendachverband, u.v.a.