

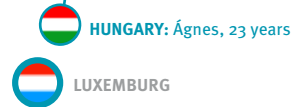
“I was fascinated to learn that another economy exists and that it is possible to do business differently by placing human values and not the financial capital at the heart of an economic system.” (Ágnes, 23)

Project granted by  
the Youth in Action National Agency in:  
Luxembourg

**Hosting organisation:**  
Institut Européen pour l'Economie Solidaire,  
INEES  
[www.inees.org](http://www.inees.org)

**Sending organisation:**  
Tegyünk Együtt az Ifjúságért Alapítvány  
[www.teisalapitvany.hu](http://www.teisalapitvany.hu)

**Activity dates:**  
01/12/2008 - 30/11/2009  
(12 months)



## « ADVOCATING A SOLIDARITY-BASED ECONOMY IN SCHIFFLANGE, LUXEMBOURG

Ágnes (23 years) is a graduate of the Budapest Business School in her native Hungary and is currently carrying out research for her masters in *Learning and Development in Multicultural and Multilingual Contexts* in Luxembourg. Her combined interests in multiculturalism and alternative ways of running the world's economy prompted her to apply to spend a year (2008/2009) working on an international conference on this theme.

The host organisation, Institut Européen pour l'Economie Solidaire (the European Institute for a Solidarity-based Economy) carries out research on economic and social issues and is an advocate for an alternative approach to running the economy. The Institute gives advice to the Luxembourg government on economic matters and provides technical background for the government's annual economic work plan. In 2009, it undertook to run the 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum "Globalisation of Solidarity". It was the first time that the Forum, given the title of Lux'09, was held in Europe and the three day conference attracted 1000 participants from around the world. Themes discussed included responsible production and consumption, fair trade and concerns for the environment.

The Institute gave Ágnes ample space in which to use her own initiative in helping to set up Lux'09. She was directly concerned with making travel and accommodation bookings for the 150 volunteers at the conference and organising an exhibition and evening events such as a concert and theatre visit. Besides the conference, Ágnes was involved in organising a youth exchange and participated in the work of consolidating a world-wide network linking individuals and organisations active in the field of solidarity-based economies.

The experience of living in the multilingual setting of Luxembourg and working on an international conference on the economy helped Ágnes to make extensive progress in her twin academic interests. Her work was so appreciated by her hosts that she was offered employment at the Institute to work on the follow-up to the conference. At the same time she also decided to embark on research for her masters at the University of Luxembourg. Her already strong interest in languages has been reinforced through her work with the multilingual gathering at the conference and her contacts with the tri-lingual population of Luxembourg.

By reaching out to young people Ágnes helped to broaden the Institute's target public and it has consequently been able to set up a number of successful activities for young people in the community, including further European Voluntary Service projects and training courses on active citizenship.