



Solecopedia: 2010 Activity report

1. Launching of Solecopedia and organization of the site

Solecopedia is a tool for sharing and disseminating solidarity economy concepts and other approaches for an economy that meets the challenges of today's world. It also aims at providing a space to establish exchanges and dialogue between actors on these concepts. The idea of such a tool emerged at the gathering of the solidarity economy promoters' international network (RIPESS) in Luxembourg in April 2009 (Lux 09), at the meeting of the "Communication" workshop. The project was selected by the 2009-2010 call for proposals of the Alliance for a responsible, plural and united economy (ALOE), under its original name: Lexis. With this support it could become a reality a few months later.

The collaborative platform Solecopedia was launched in December 2009 after several months of preparation, first in 5 languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German), and soon also in Japanese and Korean. The opensource system chosen is MediaWiki, a robust multilingual and participatory platform for managing a series of articles such as an encyclopedia or a glossary. Each language has a separate space, with its authors and articles. Links between terms in different languages bridge the language spaces together.

We wrote this report slightly over a year after launching the site.

2. Quantitative assessment: articles, languages, partners, categories

2.1. Authors and content

Solecopedia has attracted interest from several networks of actors, the launching of the site has meant an important communication effort. The choice of language versions has been backed up by the interest of networks and individuals at the Communication workshop of Lux 09.

Fifty people have registered to the French version and a number approaching to the English version, with the intention of writing. Spanish and Portuguese versions have undergone a more limited participation, despite contacts with Spanish and Brazilian solidarity economy networks. CEST project (see § 3) has motivated the creation of a German version, and the involvement of a Japanese member the versions in Japanese and Korean.

The establishment of a baseline of knowledge meaningful in quantity and quality was a first step requiring significant investment on the part of volunteer editors. Requirements have been formalized for the quality and format of the texts and their legal status (Creative Commons - By - Non Commercial - Share Alike).

This baseline is almost there for solidarity economy, thanks to particularly important contributions of a dozen contributors. More than 150 articles in French, 100 in English, 65 in Spanish and 48 in Portuguese, allow people to move around the key concepts of this approach of economy. Attached files refer to more extensive contributions. These are not routinely searched (the Web links are used to refer to substantial information), but they illustrate some articles.

The statistics offered by MediaWiki for users and authors include a category "active authors" based on the activity of the 35 last days, and not the entire time span of the site. This trend remains representative, however. The most active users for content development are Spanish and French speaking. Despite a relatively high number of registered participants the English speaking still participate little to the content development on Soleclopedia.

The situation of the Portuguese version shows how difficult it was for the team to convince the Brazilian networks of sharing with actors speaking other languages. The same issue has been encountered elsewhere. A major effort has been made by a handful of writers in that language however, as well as in Japanese and Korean. These efforts have yielded significant fruit in terms of visits.

The following table summarizes the participation of registered users, some of which are active authors, in the production of content, and the result of this production.

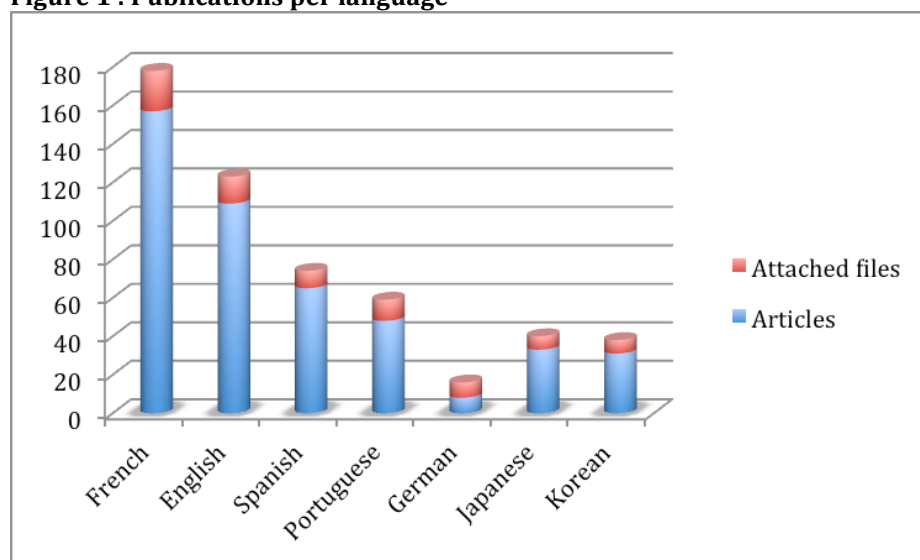
Table 1 : Content and participation to content creation

Language	Articles	Attached files	Registered users	Active users
French	157	21	59	5
English	109	14	45	1
Spanish	65	9	16	9
Portuguese	48	11	4	3
German	8	8	8	3
Japanese	33	7	3	3
Korean	31	7	3	3

Date of reference : January 21, 2011

Here is the same information, presented in a graph:

Figure 1 : Publications per language



Date of reference : January 21, 2011

2.2. Site visits

Visitor website statistics, available for each language version and each article, are encouraging (table 2). The entire site received more than 134,000 visits in 2010. The French, English, Spanish and Japanese speaking (in order of visits) are particularly interested, with 21 700 to 37 200 visits. Versions in Portuguese, Korean and German, each collected between 4,500 and 10,000 visits.

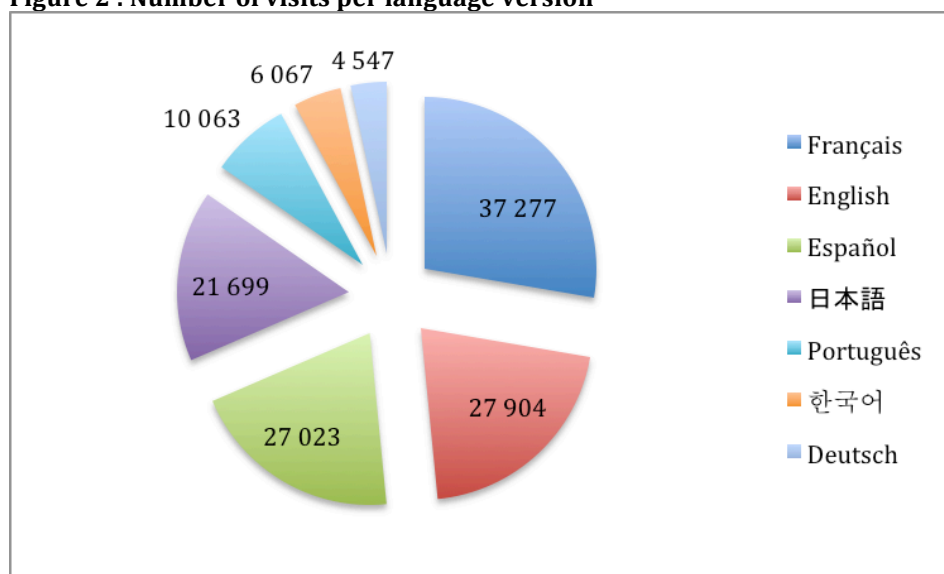
The statistics of most read articles in each language show the variety of content and interest of visitors.

Tableau 2 : Consultation du contenu

Language	Total visits	Home	Most read article	2 nd most read article	3 ^e most read article
French	37 277	8 285	Economie solidaire : 1 857	Aide : 890	Economie sociale et solidaire : 855
English	27 904	6 033	Social Economy : 1010	Social Capital : 567	Fair Trade : 483
Espagnol	27 023	6 878	Economia solidaria : 1 879	Indicadores de riqueza : 625	Desarrollo sostenible : 612
Portugais	10 063	3 115	Comércio justo : 664	Economia solidária : 483	Continente : 318
Allemand	4 547	3 035	Solidarische Ökonomie : 463	Landwirtschaftsgemeinschaftshof : 121	Agenda 21 für Kultur : 120
Japonais	21 699	5 444	(solidarity economy) : 1 799	(globalization) : 908	(social capital) : 793
Coréen	6 067	2 443	(capital social) : 297	(économie solidaire) : 225	(solidarity finance) : 211
Total	134 580				

Date of reference : January 21, 2011

Figure 2 : Number of visits per language version



Date of reference : January 21, 2011

A comparison can be made with content development of another collaborative site, Ekopedia (presented in § 3). After more than five years of existence, Ekopedia has 7 European languages versions, with over 2100 articles in French, 270 in Polish, 200 in Italian, 170 in English, and less than 200 in Spanish and German. As compared, the content development of Soleclopedia, during the first year and in different language versions, is encouraging.

3. Partnerships for content development

Many networks have been contacted in order to establish ongoing content-sharing agreements. These should become the cornerstone of a strategy for balancing the development of quality content and stakeholder participation.

Two criteria were used to approach potential partners: 1) their participation in content creation on topics related to solidarity economy, ecological economics and sustainable development, 2) their familiarity with open and collaborative methods for content production, or their openness to follow these principles.

Tentative agreements have been concluded with the following organizations, which have developed lexicons or dictionaries on topics related to those of Solecopedia:

Babel, a network of volunteer translators – interpreters active at the social forums.

The "lexicons" developed by this network provide tables of equivalence between languages on various topics including: finance, fair trade, and public goods. These equivalences have been evaluated by the team Solecopedia, and helped establish the links between language versions of articles.

Tax Justice Network, a citizens' movement fighting against all forms of tax evasion, and promoting transparency in international finance. This very active movement has developed a glossary on tax and financial topics. The English version was made available to us, while the French version will be upon release later in 2011.

CEST Transfer Project (Sustainable Further Training and Competence Strategies for the Social Economy). This European project has produced a training kit on "local social economy" consisting of articles and graphics. There is an English and a German version. Articles and graphics are being integrated to Solecopedia in both languages.

The integration of the content of these glossaries and documents in an adapted format began in 2010. It should continue in 2011.

Solecopedia is in contact with other initiatives, more oriented towards research, which accepted the idea to reproduce or adapt their contents under Creative Commons license to the collaborative encyclopedia:

- The CEECEC project ("civil society engagement with ecological economics") conducted by several European universities. This project, which just ended has produced numerous educational resources, still available online, including a French and English glossary of ecological economics. An agreement for publishing the contents of this glossary on Solecopedia was recently concluded, opening the prospect of significant expansion and development.

- The International Newsletter on Sustainable Local Development

The type of collaboration to be done with this newsletter will be discussed in the context of the development of Solecopedia and its integration to resource sites to rethink the economy. Yvon Poirier (Quebec), who co-animates this newsletter in four languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese), with Judith Hitchman and Martin Théveniaut, also made available to Solecopedia some of his personal contributions to the history of solidarity economy.

Other contacts, while cordial, have been less successful, often for reasons of contingency:

Ekopedia, a predominantly francophone online collaborative encyclopedia on "alternative techniques of life" has been contacted. Ekopedia's approach, focusing on useful information from an ecological standpoint, appeared complementary to that of Soleclopedia.

During our exchange, an agreement was signed between Ekopedia and the French Colibris movement, which we had also contacted, "to share green solutions", in French only, with a few dozen articles so far (see Long term -> Colibris on Ekopedia). The context was not favorable for Ekopedia and Soleclopedia to sign a new agreement. This may however be discussed in 2011, targeting specifically the contribution of each party.

Francophone initiatives linked to solidarity economy.

Contacts were made with the most current projects:

Database of economic and solidarity initiatives (BDIS) and the Labo ESS.

The first results are: cross-links between BDIS and Soleclopedia, and participation in 2010 to the working group on collaborative tools of l'Atelier, a resource center for solidarity economy in Ile-de-France. Contact with BDIS project is resumed. The Labo ESS has not yet responded to the proposals for collaboration that we made.

Overall, the interest aroused among the mentioned players is very encouraging and the prospects for concrete collaboration initiated in 2010 will be implemented in 2011.

The overall objective of Soleclopedia for 2011 is to continue to enhance the user base and partnerships for content development, in quantity and quality. We also propose to initiate a gradual and controlled opening of the topics covered by Soleclopedia to other approaches of the economy contributing to sustainable solidarity-based human development, and to link this initiative with existing or under construction information and communication tools which have similar goals.

We present in another document development prospects for 2011-2012, available on demand.

We would like to count with your participation in 2011-2012.

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