



CERTIFICATE 2022

Objective

Forum Ethibel is a Belgian not-for-profit organisation and recognised as an expert in **rating, independent control and certification** of products that meet ethical, societal, ecological and good governance standards. This audit and certification is carried out on behalf of Ressources.

RESSOURCES is the federation of social economy enterprises active in **waste reduction** through the **recovery, reuse and valorisation** of resources in a **circular economy**.

The Solid'R label is an ethical label for companies within the **social economy sector** active in the recycling, collection and sale of **second hand textiles and goods**. The label was created to differentiate from private players in the reuse and recycling market. RESSOURCES launched the Solid'R label for organisations that voluntarily respect certain ethical and solidarity principles and are audited annually. In 2018, Solid'R has been launched on **European level** in order to promote these solidarity principles and to apply the social economic criteria.

Verification

Vesti Solidale

By collecting and recycling clothing, furniture and other goods, Vesti Solidale wants to create jobs for vulnerable people. Unemployed people older than 45 years, refugees, poor people and homeless people are trained so that they can perform decent work. The work conducted contributes to the protection and preservation of the environment.



Scope

Practical information regarding audit:

- Type:
 - On Site
 - Remote
- Date: 24 November 2022

Criteria(*)	CONTROL
1. Social purpose	✓
2. Autonomous management	✓
3. Sustainable development	✓
4. Organisation's interest versus general interest	✓
5. Non discrimination	✓
6. Democratic control	✓
7. Solidarity & responsibility	✓
8. Transparency & communication	✓
9. Integrity & moral	✓

General remarks:

Activities: Besides the collection of clothes and stimulating reuse in one of the three Share-shops, Vesti Solidale also collects (non)-hazardous waste generated by industrial activities. As this is a type B cooperation, the organisation must employ at least 30% disadvantaged people to be in line with the Italian law.

Employees: Workers that show commitment and good work get offered to become shareholder. This guarantees participation of the workers in strategic meetings, but only for committed long term workers.

Governance: Dividends are only distributed to financing shareholders. This year, Vesti Solidale has 1 financing shareholder that received less than 1% of its capital as a dividend. Two breaches with the Solid'R criteria were detected in the statutes of Vesti Solidale; first, the statutes allow voting power to exceed the 5% limit, which was set out in Solid'R criterion 6.2. In practice, this resulted in one of the shareholders detaining 11% of the voting rights in 2021, which actively breaches the criterion. second, art. 61 of the statutes state that in case of cessation of activities, possible dividends are paid before donating the remaining assets to a social purpose. This should be further clarified in the statutes in order to assess compliance with Solid'R criterion 1.4.

Documentation and additional information was transparently shared with the auditor.

During the on-site audit, the verifier had contact with a proportion of the employees to gain insights in their point of view.

Result

All requested documents were delivered and questions were answered in full. Forum Ethibel declares that, for the year 2021, the **activities of Vesti Solidale are compliant with remarks** with the SOLID'R Ethical Charter that is based on the **European criteria of social economy**. The non-compliant criteria must be met before the next audit.

Date: 15/12/2022

Forum ETHIBEL asbl,



Sophie Brassinne,
Research officer



Kenny Frederickx,
Director



Notification

Societal value

The principles and criteria queried and checked during the audit are set out by RESSOURCES. The importance of this audit is to make the public aware of the ethical, social and ecological principles that the organisation in question strives entirely voluntarily.

Based on the audit and the resulting certificate, RESSOURCES determines whether the Solid'R label could be assigned to the concerning organisation (or not).

Procedure

Organisations that want to receive the Solid'R label for the **first time** are subject to an on-site audit. In the following years, a **remote audit** is carried out.

For 'old' member organisations, an on-site audit will be organised **every three years**. For the smallest organisations this is replaced by a skype call. This is important to discuss whether new developments or changes have taken place in terms of vision, strategy or long-term objectives.

By alternating on site audits and remote audits, a balance is respected between maintaining **in-depth views** about the organisations and pursuing **cost-efficiency**.

Underlying indicators (*):

1 The primacy of the people and the corporate purpose over the capital.	1.1 The social goals are defined and the way of meeting them is evaluated at least once a year (activity or management report). 1.2 Limitation of the return on capital to a dividend of max. 6%. 1.3 In case of commercial companies shares transfer, the revaluation in relation to the nominal value may not exceed the rate of inflation of the European consumer price. 1.4 In the event of cessation of activity, the net assets may not be distributed among the partners in any case, but must be transferred to a social economy company.
2 Managerial Autonomy.	2.1 The majority of the shares or votes at the general meeting cannot be held by one or more public or capital/private sector partners.
3 The majority of surpluses are assigned to the achievement of objectives that promote sustainable development and serve members and the general interest.	3.1 Surplus assignment in priority to the reserve or equity funds, investments for the maintenance of the production tool and the improvement of working conditions, and support of social goals. 3.2 No gross remuneration (statutory and extra-legal benefits included) greater than 5 times the structures' lowest salary.
4 Conciliate the interests of the members and the users, and the general interest.	4.1 Compliance with the social, tax, and environmental legislation.
5 Voluntary-based and open-based membership.	5.1 No restrictions may be applied to the admission of a partner, worker or staff member for political, philosophical or religious reasons.
6 Democratic control by its members (with the exception of foundations that lack such democratic control).	6.1 No physical person can hold more than 50% of the capital. 6.2 The general meeting decisions are taken according to the rule 'one person, one vote' or by limiting the votive power to 5%. 6.3 The workers are represented at the general meeting or are invited to be a member. 6.4 Workers are regularly informed and consulted on the results of the organization and its strategic choices. 6.5 Workers have the opportunity to attend training courses in both their own and their organizations' interest.
7 Defense and application of solidarity and responsibility principles.	7.1 Each member is obliged not to put in place any strategy likely to harm the activity of another member. He is obliged to consult with the other members concerned.
8 Transparency and communication on the annual accounts/financial statements.	8.1 Keep regular accounts/financial statements and prepare the statutory annual accounts: presentation of annual accounts including balance sheets, profit and loss. This must be specified in the activity report. 8.2 Transparency concerning the means used; the provenance and allocation. 8.3 Transparent communication and accounts accessible for donors; inform donors on how information is accessible. The information must reflect reality and make it possible to know both the sources and the allocation of resources.
9 Be a honest structure with moral integrity.	9.1 To guard against fraud and malfeasance and to make sure that the structure is honest.