ISE, or The Institute of Solidarity Economics is the current working title for a new project with the following mission.

To conduct and provide financial support for research and popular education projects that are part of the broad movement to create an ethical and sustainable economic system.

In particular we want to support initiatives that foster solidarity, active participation, self management, equity, ecological sustainability, diversity and efficiency.

We have seed money for the project, but no institutional structure for the organisation yet.

Most of the money for this project is in what is called a Discretionary Advised Charitable Foundation, (like the Charities Aid

Foundation) and needs to be gifted to UK based charities. This means that we will need to form our own Charity (or org with Charitable

status) or form partnerships with existing UK Charities to access the bulk of the money, though we do have access to some funds if we need them in advance of having such relationships or institutions in place.

The funding for the project has come from an individual, who made their money in the entertainment industry. I am his representative.

It is heavily inspired by the Participatory Economics model developed by Robin Hahnel and Michael Albert, but is open to supporting initiatives that don't fit into that model but still broadly aligned with the goals.

To date we have agreed to sponsor a participatory planning simulation project in Portland University (US), that is being supervised by Professor Hahnel and we expect to be sponsoring some popular education initiatives by a new organisation called Participatory Economics UK.

Some of those folk are behind this site ([www.participatoryeconomics.info](http://www.participatoryeconomics.info)).

Our current thoughts on how to proceed are to form a loose network of folk with an interest in research and education from the more radical end of the co-operative, green and economic justice movements. Through the network we can identify early projects to support or initiate new ones and explore what legal/governance form would be appropriate for the longer term. We've been looking into forming a new charitable foundation, as well as a co-operative consortium of researchers and educators.

We're hoping to kick start this network at the Worker Co-op Weekend.

It might be a bit ambitious for a first meeting, but it would be great if we could identify one new project to back at the weekend. It would need to be either a research or popular education project that advances Principle 6.