



# CERTIFICATE 2024

## 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

### Cooperativa Ruah

Cooperativa Impresa Sociale Ruah was founded in 2009, operates in the Bergamo region. The organisation's mission is to (re)integrate vulnerable foreign citizens and Italians. Ruah aims this by (1) offering hospitality to whom need (temporary) housing, by (2) organizing literacy and Italian language courses and by (3) running a second hand shop which stimulates circular economy and which creates work experience for people facing challenging on the regular job market.



### Scope

Practical information regarding audit:

- Type:
  - On Site
  - Remote

Criteria(*)	CONTROL
1. Social purpose	✓
2. Managerial Autonomy	✓
3. Sustainable development	✓
4. Organisation's interest versus general interest	✓
5. Voluntary -based and open-based membership	✓
6. Democratic control	✓
7. Transparency & communication	✓
8. Honest and with moral integrity	✓

*Certificate legend: Green for compliance, Orange for caution, Red for breach.*

### General remarks:

**Activities:** Triciclo, the branch responsible for clothing collection and sales, keeps raising awareness of the importance of circular economy. Ruah has changed its logo to articulate the internal changes it went through and finalised in 2023.

**Employees:** Ruah has offered personalized growth pathways for employees, strengthening the inclusive nature of the organization. For instance, Ruah has involved linguistic-cultural mediators to support individuals of foreign origin in completing the safety courses required to activate internships, ensuring an experience that is inclusive and accessible to all.

**Governance:** Given the renewed Solid R criteria, Ruah is fully in line with the requirements with regard to voting. In practice the one person one vote rule is used.

*Documentation and additional information was transparently shared with the auditor.*

## Result

All requested documents were delivered and questions were answered in full. Forum Ethibel declares that, for the year 2023, the **activities of of Cooperativa Ruah are compliant** with the SOLID'R Ethical Charter that is based on the **European criteria of social economy**.

Date: 25/11/2024

Forum ETHIBEL asbl,



Remi Leroy,  
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**.

### Commitments and underlying indicators (\*):

Commitment	Criteria
<b>Commitment 1:</b> Social purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The social goals are defined and the way of meeting them is evaluated at least once a year (activity or management report)</li> <li>Limitation of the return on Capital to a dividend must not exceed SE national limitation. If such international limit doesn't exist, capital remuneration cant' exceed European inflation rate of consumption prices.</li> <li>In case of commercial companies shares transfer, their revaluation in relation to the nominal value may not exceed the rate of inflation of the European consumption prices.</li> <li>In the event of cessation of activity, the net assets may not be distributed among the associates, partners or cooperators in any case, but must be transferred to a social economy company.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 2:</b> Managerial Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority of the shares or votes, at the general meeting, can not be held by one or more public or capital / private sector partners. Otherwise, workers have a blocking minority at the general assembly.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 3:</b> Sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>No gross remuneration (statutory and extra-legal benefits included) nor billing for freelance (in case of freelance management) greater than 5 times the structure lowest salary.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 4:</b> Own interest versus general interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with the social, tax and environmental legislation</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 5:</b> Voluntary-based and open-based membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions may be applied to the admission of a partner, worker or staff member for political, philosophical or religious reasons</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 6:</b> Democratic control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No physical person can hold more than 50% of the capital</li> <li>The general meeting decisions are taken according to the rule "one person, one vote" or, in case of '1 share/1 vote", by limiting the votive power to 49,5%.</li> <li>The workers are represented at the GA : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- either they are invited to be a member,</li> <li>- either shares, at a price defined by national legislation relating to the ES, are accessible to them,</li> <li>- or by any other ways.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Workers are regularly informed and consulted on the results of the organization and its strategic choices.</li> <li>Workers have the opportunity to attend training courses in their interest and in the interest of their organization</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 7:</b> Transparency and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep regular accounts / financial statements and prepare the statutory annual accounts: Presentation of annual accounts including balance sheets as well as profit and loss</li> <li>Transparency concerning the means used (provenance and allocation): The quantity of resources used as well as their origin (s) and their assignment (s) according to specific objectives, must be able to be determined in financial reports, completed if necessary with comments, and within activities report,</li> <li>This annual activity report is made available on the enterprise website.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment 8:</b> honest and with moral integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To guard against fraud and malfeasance, and to make sure that the structure is honest</li> </ul>