

Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity
Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation

GSEF Global Virtual Forum
19 – 23 October 2020

Report format

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Title of the session:	Promoting SSE through Public Policies: Seven Case Studies and Guidelines for Local Governments
Type of session	Special session, co-organized by GSEF, UNRISD and UCLG
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Date:	19 October 2020
Time:	5.30 PM CEST
Participants	90-110 at all times

Name of moderator

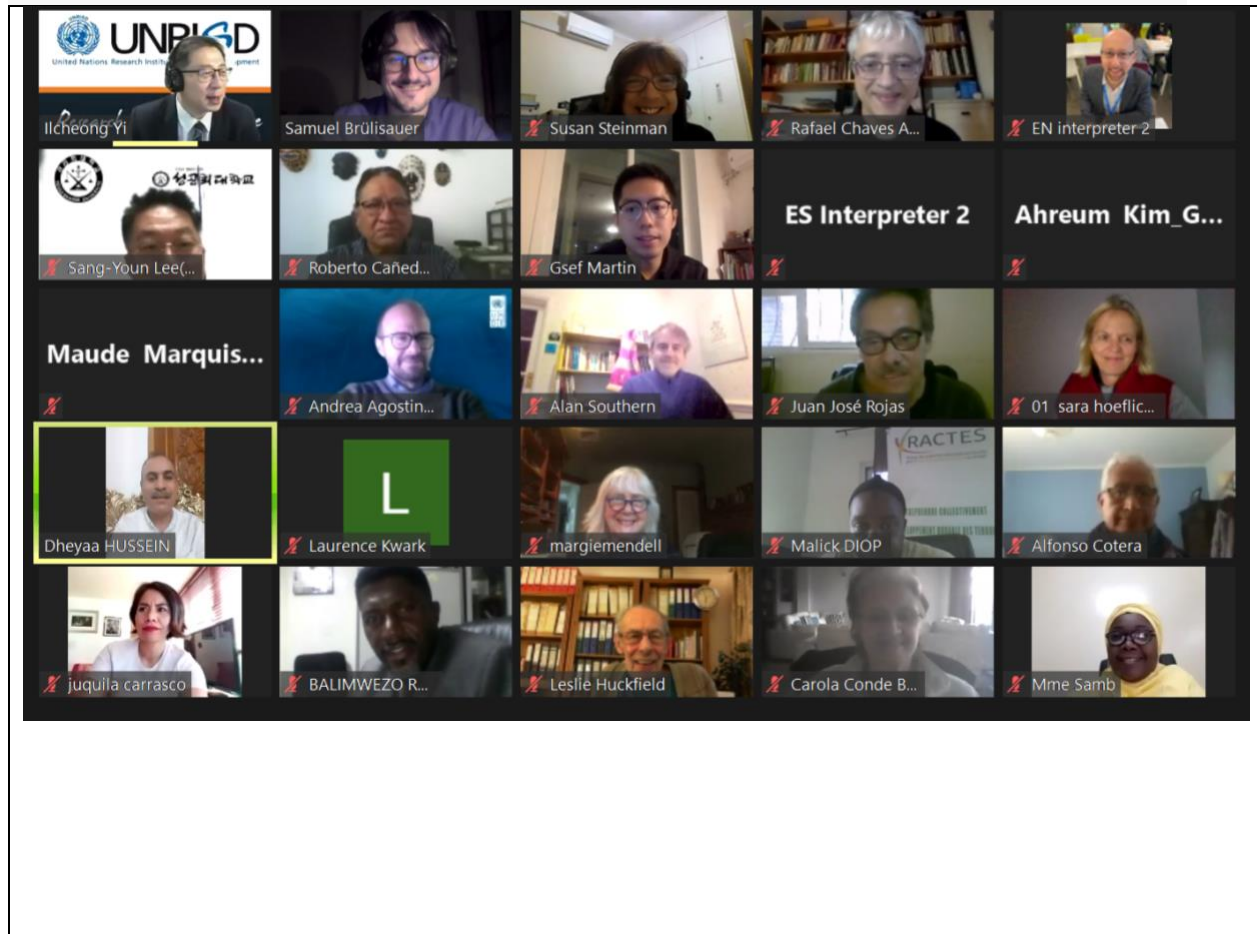
Ilcheong Yi

Speakers

- Andrea Agostinucci (UNDP)
- Laurence Kwark (GSEF)
- Rafael Chaves (University of Valencia)
- Malick Diop & Aminata Samb Diop (RACTES)
- Susan Steinman (University of Pretoria)
- Alan Southern (University of Liverpool)
- Roberto Cañedo Villarreal (Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero) & Juan José Rojas Herrera (Universidad Autónoma Chapingo)
- Marguerite Mendell (Concordia University) & Nancy Neamtan (TIESS)
- Kil-Soon Yoon & Sang-Youn Lee (Sungkonghoe University)
- Hamish Jenkins (UNRISD)
- Sara Hoeflich (UCLG)
- Maude Marquis-Bissonnette (City of Gatineau Council, Canada)

Screenshot of the zoom session

Take a screenshot as photo-memory of the session. Insert the image here.



Summary of presentations:

1. Sara Hoeflich, UCLG

Opening remarks on the importance of the interconnectedness between local and global solidarity in the Social and Solidarity Economy, from Sara Hoeflich the head of the Learning Department at United Cities and Local Governments.

2. Andrea Agostinucci, UNDP

Opening remarks from Andrea Agostinucci the local Economic Development Advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the potential of SSE to address local societal and environmental needs through multi-actor and multidimensional processes inherent to the SSE.

3. Laurence Kwark GSEF

Opening remarks and special thanks to those involved in the realization of this project. Laurence Kwark, the Secretary General of GSEF draws attention to the potential of SSE as an alternative strategy for sustainable development and to the importance of the SSE during times of crisis as highlighted during the 2007-8 financial crisis, and more recently during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

4. Ilcheong Yi, UNRISD

Introduction on the project [Promoting SSE through Public Policies: Guidelines for Local Governments](#) and an overview of the role played by UNRISD on mainstreaming SSE within the UN and beyond through research activities.

5. Sang-Youn Lee, Sungkonghoe University

Presentation of the case study [Policy Systems and Measures for the Social Economy in Seoul](#) and explanation of SSE landscape in Seoul and the Republic of Korea. The presentation also discussed key policies and legislative frameworks that have been adopted, and those being developed for the social economy in Seoul.

6. Roberto Cañedo Villarreal, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero

Presentation of the case study [Políticas de fomento de la economía social y solidaria: estudio de caso de la Ciudad de México](#). The presentation explores challenges to public policies for the SSE in Mexico City and how to address these in order to promote the development of SSE going forward.

7. Susan Steinman, University of Pretoria

Presentation of the case study [Creating an Enabling Environment for the Social and Solidarity Economy \(SSE\) through Public Policies in Durban, South Africa](#). The presentation examines core characteristics of the SSE in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality and elements that have proved conducive to successful public policies.

8. Rafael Chaves, University of Valencia

Presentation of the case study [Public Policies Fostering the Social and Solidarity Economy in Barcelona \(2016-2019\)](#). This presentation highlights the importance of cross-cutting and multi-sectoral policies across the SSE as exemplified in their study and core changes in the SSE landscape which served as catalysts for the increased uptake of public policies among local government officials in Barcelona City Council.

9. Margie Mendell and Nancy Neamtan, Concordia University and TIESS (respectively)

Presentation of the case study [Public Policies Enabling the Social and Solidarity Economy in the City of Montreal](#). This discussion stressed the significance of the integrated ecosystemic approach within and across all levels of government which has been essential to the success of a bottom-up led SSE in Montreal.

10. Malick Diop, RACTES

Presentation of the draft case study Expérience de la ville de Dakar dans la conception, l'exécution et l'évaluation des politiques publiques pour les organisations et entreprises coopératives d'économie sociale et solidaire. This presentation reviewed the different structures in place in the city of Dakar for the creation of public policies for SSE. As such, Malick Diop advocated for a more streamlined approach to align these structures and the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms and participatory and decision-making structures to promote SSE.

11. Alan Southern, University of Liverpool

Presentation of the draft case study The Social and Solidarity Economy in the Liverpool City Region. Alan Southern discussed the important and historic role of the SSE in the Liverpool City Region which continues to prove influential in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He also explained how devolved governance has been able to reinforce and strengthen the role of SSE in local communities.

12. Hamish Jenkins, UNRISD

Presentation of the Guidelines for Local Governments: Promoting SSE through Public Policies. The presentation explores the forthcoming (2020) Guidelines document, the challenges and potentials related to SSE public policies and pathways to implementing the Guidelines through different international organizations and the global SSE network.

13. Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, City of Gatineau Council, Canada

This speech, from a local government councilor at the City of Gatineau reflects on what was discussed by panelists and the research that has been undertaken in light of social economy policies being adapted and passed in her local government. She stresses the growing importance of the social economy amidst little resources, as well as challenges faced by SSE in public policies to create an enabling environment for SSE.

Answers to the GUIDING QUESTION:

How to transform the present and build a better future from the SSE?

Local governments are often simultaneously faced with budget cuts and pressure to extend services aiming to achieve the Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development goals. Guidelines on how to promote SSE through public policies is key for local governments in addressing this challenge, transform the present and build a better future, particularly in the context of crisis and ensuing recovery.

Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:

Sara Hoeflich de Duque, UCLG Barcelona

How can we make sure that SSE policy is not dealt with in siloes but through an integrative approach cutting through other relevant policy areas such as housing or social services?

Answer *There was not an answer for this question from audience, but in the presentation by Hamish Jenkins, it was emphasized that SSE public policies must be integrated in a broad framework of development plans and strategies. Also, it was emphasized that co-construction mechanisms and processes which involve diverse actors with different interests and concerns can act as a force to push local policies to be integrated with each other.*

Ronald Nsubuga Balimwezo, Uganda

Most of the case studies were focusing on relatively affluent countries, and predominant issues faced by local governments in poorer countries may not be reflected sufficiently in the current Guidelines. Will there be efforts to strengthen the representation of the Global South in future efforts?

Answer *It is true there are only two cases out of seven case studies which focus on developing countries. However, many cases used for the Guidelines reflect the experience from developing countries such as low income and low middle-income countries. And more importantly, the Guidelines take into consideration the different situations and challenges faced by resource poor countries and suggest ways to deal with the scarcity of resources through innovative ideas.*

General questions from audience

What has been the impact of the Covid-19 crisis?

Answer *One of the direct impacts has been on home care, and more particularly among the elderly in which cooperatives have responded well. Speakers also stressed the importance of greater flexibility within SSE organizations and enterprises towards their employees in responding to the crisis, but also beyond such as in the distribution of food and essential supplies as well as the manufacturing and supply of face masks, thus highlighting the resilient nature of the SSE.*

How do we ensure the autonomy and independence of SSE organizations and enterprises in public policies?

Answer *This needs to be incorporated and recognized in legal and Institutional frameworks, but there also needs to be a mechanism which ensures that economic and social activities are maintained where there is a lack of autonomy and independence. These can contribute to a favorable environment, but at the same time, there is a need for training and education programs to understand how SSEOs operate, especially when there is state allocated funding.*

Why are democratization processes important for SSEOs in light of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Answer *There are new paths ahead which have been completely unexpected and the need for local government and solidarity through working with neighbors have brought a new vision. At a global level, we are seeing a need for local government and authorities. The role of democratizing local actors and*

SSEOs in participatory processes have proved especially important in the covid-19 crisis and towards forming this new vision among local governments.

Add **summary or conclusion of the moderator** at the end of the session in case there was no closing remarks per presenter/speaker

- No particular summary of the discussions. But the moderator emphasized that this project has served as the first step towards the realization of an ambitious vision of transformation and asked for support in this collective endeavor by providing feedbacks on the Guidelines.