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Global Social
Economy Forum

Webinars heading to



MEXICO CITY 2021
GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

Conceptual note

Social and Solidarity Economy in everything and for everyone: new ecosystems

The Social and Solidarity Economy is community, mutual assistance, development opportunity, collective well-being and: transformative power. It takes different forms of organization in Latin America and the world, but it always coincides in the search for a new economic, social and cultural structure that is more just, with fewer inequality gaps and with greater inclusion.

Recent data shows that 3.4 billion people border on extreme poverty and live on less than six dollars a day; and men possess 50% more of the world's wealth than women (OXFAM, 2019). Increasing global income inequality seems inevitable. Something different must be done.

We are living an unprecedented crisis worldwide, the Covid-19 impact urges us to rethink from what is nearer to us to a bigger picture. It also urges us to rethink our actions as individuals within society and the effects they have both locally and globally; as well as the functioning and the effects of the prevailing economic model.

According to Jorge Bragulat, the Social and Solidarity Economy grows in crisis periods. On one hand, it promotes the formation of solidarity community groups among friends, neighbors, and our surroundings, that is the spark that ignites the SSE. Actions such as buying collectively to acquire at wholesale prices among all, organizing tandas (informal loan clubs) as a saving and loaning community mechanism. Supporting each other by taking care of the elders, the children, and in order to guarantee the access of women and men to health. These actions allow

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us to think ourselves in a collective and solidarity way in our relations with the community.

These initiatives put into practice values such as empathy, tolerance, understanding; they generate strong bonds that sustain collective unity, stability and community organization these days; they promote trust, peace, and community well-being which contribute to the stability, security, and the decreasing of any type of risk or threat to our community.

On the other hand, the SSE presence in the world economy is significant. According to the World Cooperative Monitor (2019), the 300 most important cooperative and mutual enterprises in the world, have a business volume of 2,035 billion dollars ; they provide employment to 280 million people globally, which represent the 10% of the employed population of the world. They are part of various sectors: industry and public services; education and social care; banking and financial services; mutual and insurance companies; agriculture and food industries.

In other words, the Social and Solidarity Economy is present in everyday life, on solidarity actions in our local environments, as well as in the global economic system. Although the SSE is in everything and for everyone, its promotion requires efforts, since its contribution to reducing inequalities, achieving well-being, and wide recognition is still a challenge.

The SSE requires a scaffolding for its dissemination, promotion, and consolidation. To make visible its principles, values and practices, its presence in the various sectors of life and its contributions to a better society from the economic and social point of view. Because there is no social transformation without economic transformation, and no economic transformation without social transformation.

¹International Cooperative Alliance (2019). Exploring the Cooperative Economy Report 2019. Available at: <https://monitor.coop/sites/default/files/publication-files/wcm2019-final-1671449250.pdf>

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In this sense, the Webinar calls for reflection on the actors and sectors that promote intersectoral initiatives, policies and strategies to design and implement environments conducive to the development of the SSE; multi-stakeholder convergence; and ecosystems that promote good living, well-being understood beyond capital, from people, from the collective, from solidarity.

Collective power is transformative and the SSE is and can be promoted from education, public space, culture, technology and the financial sector, among others. It contributes beyond the economic field, to diminish violence, to give access to health systems, to build peace and to internalize democracy.

So that "no one is left behind", the Social and Solidarity Economy is a viable route. Its principles, values and practices, such as mutual aid, democracy, equity, honesty, equality, justice and shared responsibility, make it possible to put an end to poverty; to fight against inequality and injustice; and to tackle climate change; in other words, to contribute from the local level to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, which has the most ambitious goals in the economic, social and environmental fields at a global level.

Within the framework of the **Webinars towards GSEF2021**, four virtual sessions were planned to address the mechanisms of social, economic and political inclusion developed from the SSE, and how these become more relevant in a context of post-COVID-19 recovery:

- **Session 1.** Challenges and Strategies of the SSE in Times of COVID-19 Crisis
- **Session 2.** Recovery and Development of Decent Work through SSE
- **Session 3.** Power of Community: SSE and Financial Systems against the COVID-19 Crisis
- **Session 4.** Social and Solidarity Economy in everything and for everyone: new ecosystem

To close this cycle of Webinars, and as an introductory event to the Virtual Forum, to be held in October, session 4 will discuss the day-to-day presence of

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the SSE, the strategies required for its consolidation, and will focus on its potential to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda; exchange experiences at an international level to strengthen ecosystems at a local and national level; and make local experiences visible on the international scene to highlight their contribution.

Goals

- To present how SSE is present in everyday life and can structure a community or a society.
- To present and analyze public policies and strategies that have allowed to create favorable environments for the development of the SSE and build strong ecosystems for the SSE.
- To make visible the SSE innovative ecosystem experiences and their impact in Latin America.
- To emphasize that the SSE contributes to the fulfillment of the SDGs and is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda.



Laurence Kwark,
Secretary General of the
Global Social Economy
Forum (GSEF)



Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier,
General Director of the
National Institute of Social
Economy (INAES), President
of the LCO, GSEF



Diana Alarcón,
General Coordinator of Advisers and
International Affairs, Member
of the the LCO GSEF



**Francisco José
Tojas Mellado,**
Mayor of San Juan, Seville



Antonio Zurita Contreras,
Senior Analyst of PNUD-ART



Nicolás Meyer,
Sustainability Manager,
Mercado Libre, Argentina



Cesar Augusto Carrillo,
Director of Rural Economy
and Food Supply, Bogotá,
Colombia



María Maziel,
Secretary of the National
Council of the Cooperative
Youth of Honduras



Ainhoa Pipaon,
Member of the MTA
(Mondragon Team Academy)
Network



Mariana Flores Mayén,
Executive Director of Institutional
Representation of the CGAAI of the
Government of Mexico City

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