



VILLE DE MEXICO 2021
FORUM MONDIAL DE
L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE

MEMBERS & PARTNERS SESSION

Organization in charge: European Commission

Session Title: The Role of SSE Actors for the Economic Development of Territories and the Industrial Transformation in Europe

Date/Duration: from 7:00 to 8:30 am UTC / from 9:00 to 10:30 am (Brussels time) on 6 October 2021

Session Format: Workshop aiming at sharing best practices and success stories.

Target Audience:

Policy makers in the field of social economy; Private stakeholders (social enterprises, social economy organisations and networks, financial actors...).

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Throughout its long history, industry has proven its ability to lead change. And it must now do the same as Europe embarks on its transition towards climate neutrality by 2050 in an ever-changing and ever more unpredictable world.

The twin ecological and digital transitions will affect every part of the European economy, society and industry. These transitions will require new technologies, with investment and innovation to match in order to create new products, services, markets and business models.

Social economy organisations and social enterprises can be leaders in the ecological transition and help achieve carbon neutrality on our continent. This is especially the case for those active in the circular economy, as recognised by the European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan, but also those active in sectors such as energy (for instance, more than 2000 energy cooperatives operate across Europe).

The green transition depends also on the development and diffusion of new technological such as artificial intelligence or blockchain. We have to enable social economy enterprises to make the utmost of these technologies and develop business opportunities, given the scale of the transformation needed.

Support by local and regional authorities is crucial for this purpose, as are public-private partnerships.

This workshop will:

- Examine the role of European local and regional authorities in helping social economy actors to be involved in the ecological transition of the industry;
- Discuss obstacles and enablers leading to successful strategies for social economy in ecological transition in territories;
- Identifying public policies to boost the social economy as key component for green industrial growth in Europe;
- Showcase best practices and success stories

Moderator and Speakers:

Anna ATHANASOPOULOU is Head of Unit, 'Proximity, Social Economy and Creative Industries', at the European Commission. An EU official since 2002, she has held different positions at services and Cabinet-level, relating to tourism and textiles, culture and creative industries, and external relations. Before joining the EU civil service, Anna worked as Adviser to two Ministers



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of Culture in Greece and as Director of Programme Planning for the Athens 2004 Cultural Olympiad. In parallel, she lectured on History of Art and Cultural Management. Anna studied Archaeology and specialised in History of Art where she holds an M.A. and a Ph.D.

Speakers :

- **Valeria Dufлот, Cofounder, Overtourism Solution**
- **Albert Kalmes, TM Enercoop (LU)**
- **Alexandra Debaisieux, Deputy Managing Director, Railcoop (FR)**
- **Agnes Schönfelder, Spokeperson Local Green Deal, City of Mannheim (Climate Policy Advisor, City of Mannheim | CEO Climate Action Agency) (GE)**
- **Denis Stokkink, Administrateur Délégué, Pour la Solidarité (BE)**

Expected Outcomes:

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to share good practices and get inspiration to establish efficient social economy policies to boost the green transition. It will also serve as an inspiration for setting up new social enterprises aiming at fostering ecological development.