

MEXICO CITY 2021  
GLOBAL SOCIAL  
ECONOMY FORUM

# GSEF Global Virtual Forum

Conceptual note

## **GSEF Global Virtual Forum Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation October 19, 2020**

### **Thematic Session Youth-led Local Circular Economy for our Society and Environment: Variation for the Era of New Normalcy**

Both the market and state failures in responding to the recent social and ecological challenges, escalated by the COVID-19 pandemic, showed the shortcomings of the current development model. Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) provides a new and important pathway to transforming the world into a sustainable and inclusive one. With a characteristic of prioritizing societal and environmental needs over profit maximization, SSE demonstrates its capacity in alleviating the negative impacts of the challenges and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

These days, local circular economy is catching people's attention with a focus on local production, local consumption, and employment within the local community. It also matches one of the characteristics of SSE which emphasizes the importance of economic activities building on local roots. SSE organizations and enterprises generally operate at the local level,

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understanding the local needs, and giving quick response[i].

Youth have been highly involved in the SSE sector. 27% of the social enterprises are led by an individual younger than 35 in India[1]. In Korea, 28% of social enterprises are launched by founders between 20 and 29 while 49% of the social enterprise founders are between 30-39[2]. In Québec, 36% of employees in the social economy sector and 18% of those who sit on the governing boards are aged 35 or less[3]. GSEF sees the importance of youth in leading a vibrant SSE movement where they can provide their innovative idea in terms of collaborative action and application of new technology.

Noticing a need for young people to visualize their needs, exchange experiences and best practices, stimulate others, consolidate their actions and further motivate other young people to become more active engaged in the field of SSE, GSEF is organizing this thematic session of “Youth and SSE”. Speakers will demonstrate some best practices launched by youth in different parts of the world for boosting local circular economy, as an alternative of the global value chain in the community. In the second half of the session, selected video from GSEF2020 Call for Video will be showcased to illustrate some SSE initiatives, tell us their experience, and share their vision of the future collaborative actions of the youth in SSE development. An open dialogue will connect the speakers and those young people whose video are selected to stimulate new ideas and actions for the growth of youth-led local circular economy.

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[1] British Council. The state of social enterprise in India. [https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/bc-report-ch4-india-digital\\_0.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/bc-report-ch4-india-digital_0.pdf)

[2] The Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS), Business for Good: Maximizing the Value of Social Enterprises in Asia. <https://www.socialenterprises.caps.org/>

[3] Gouvernement du Québec, Institut de la statistique du Québec. (2019). L'économie sociale au Québec: Portrait statistique 2016. <https://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/economie-sociale/portrait-economie-sociale.html>

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[i] OECD, OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Social economy and the COVID-19 crisis: current and future roles 30 July 2020, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/social-economy-and-the-covid-19-crisis-current-and-future-roles-f904b89f/>

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