Policies for SSE ecosystems: legislating to transform

Name of the moderator:
Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier

Name of the main speaker:
Antonella Noya, Head of Unit for the Social Economy at the OECD, Paris.

Name of panelists/commentators:
• María de los Ángeles Huerta, Federal Deputy for the LXIV Legislature.
• Alejandro Encinas Nájera, Head of International Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.
• Bárbara Franchini, Project Manager and Research Area EURICSE, Italy.
• Benjamín Robles Montoya, Federal Deputy for the LXIV Legislature.

Number of participants:
199 participants zoomed in, 2,500 views on Facebook, 10,020 people reached.

Relevant ideas and key points:
Antonella Noya:
- OECD more than 60 years working to improve people's living conditions.
- Adding value to the social economy and innovation.
- SSE contribution to employment and development.

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- Ecosystem for SSE: Improve the institutional framework, promote culture and attitudes, measure social impact (monitor and communicate on impact and social commitment), legislative framework and regulations (increase visibility and coherence as well as interdepartmental coordination), facilitate access to finance and markets (promote financial sustainability) and skills (ensure business development and improve cross-sectoral cooperation).

**- The institutional framework is important because it recognizes the SSE as a key partner in the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous society by governments. For example in Mexico INAES.**

- Therefore, the need to create ecosystems conducive to the development and growth of the SSE is the establishment of a formal institutional framework, a dedicated statutory body and a system of formal recognition.

- It is recommended to avoid designing an institutional framework without consulting stakeholders and without the sector; to ignore the existing ecosystem at that time; and to allow for inconsistencies with other policies and actions.

- It is recommended: to strengthen the support and collaboration of institutional organizations with SSE organizations; to create coordination mechanisms between government agencies and levels of government.

**- The legislative framework is important because once it is in place it increases the visibility, recognition and credibility of SSE organizations.** The legal forms provide a framework for SSE organizations.

- However, if there is no real definition, this procedure for the development of the SSE will stagnate.


**Alejandro Encinas:**

- SSE in Mexico.

- May 1st Labor Reform: focused on democratizing work: moving towards democracy in the world of work as a genuine path to productivity and improvement of workers' lives. Through unions and cooperatives.

- Horizontality, leaving verticality aside.

- JCF and the SSE: month 13 204,000: 30% employment, 30% stay where they are, studies and 32% want to start a business linked to the batches for welfare and INAES so that they are not individual enterprises but collective through training
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- How do we get them into the market?
- The SSE has many answers to all that is coming in these uncertain times.

**Bárbara Franchini:**
- SSE in Italy.
- Reaction of cooperatives to the crisis is much better than traditional companies.
- In fact, the cooperatives became more than 59,000 after the 2007 crisis (when there were 50,000), and the number of employees increased by 18% when in the other companies it decreased much more: this shows once again that the SSE prioritizes and puts people at the center.
- It also has a high level of innovation and high capacity to create value to the local Cooperatives have increasingly developed an important role in the development.
- Italy is one of the countries most affected by COVID, however cooperatives have not only survived the crisis but have offered to cooperate with their communities in whatever is needed in the face of the pandemic (some provide psychological care, others have reinvested production to produce masks, food distribution, etc).

**Benjamín Robles:**
- Congress of the Union has created measures to generate welfare to the population as the Development Plan; the lighthouse of First the Poor.
- New public policies aimed at the Social and Solidarity Economy are required.
- **We all have an obligation to co-create strategies for the SSE adapted to their regions, countries and communities, each one is different.**
- Do not forget the development from the local and really know that territory, know their real needs and interests, starting from there.
- **Two main challenges: corresponding legal framework and political willingness and sensitivity to develop SSE models.**
- Neoliberalism still wants to eliminate the social sector of the economy, we must change that.
- Concept of social welfare against neoliberalism, so we will have better laws and better practices in our governments.
Public comments:
• César Escalona, question:
In OECD member countries, what are the models of tax treatment of cooperatives and other types of SE companies? The answer is that it is a very complicated issue, however there are some countries in Europe where there are tax benefits, for example Spain. Does the OECD have any studies on the impacts of differentiated tax treatment in favour of SSE companies? The answer is no, but work is underway. ¿What is the new role of the SSE in the midst of a planetary economic and health crisis that is holding us all back? To which
• Antonella responds: the role of the SSE is important before and after the crisis, we are just working to make this visible in governments, institutions and societies. The transformative character has to do with the democratization of the economy showing a different model of governance within the companies to generate greater social impacts in the community. Bárbara stresses that it is important to socialize in order for companies to discipline themselves differently.

• Guadalupe Armenta asks:
should the legal and regulatory framework consider facilities for workers in bankrupt or closed companies to organize in cooperatives and what possibilities exist for exemption from income tax on workers' liquidations?
• Antonella responds: the more that value is present to that extent is that they can have an influence with local and federal governments to obtain these benefits.
Can cooperatives support other service or production cooperatives in Italy and what advantages do they represent in relation to commercial banks? Antonella answers: Over time, the way in which traditional companies work together with SE companies has not improved much, since SE companies have a different sensibility.

• José Guadalupe Armenta:
It is necessary to consider in the legal and regulatory framework facilities for the workers of bankrupt or closed companies to organize in cooperatives and exempt from income tax the liquidations of the workers.

Questions
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• **César Escalona:**  
For the question session. Two addressed to Antonella. 1st. In the OECD member countries, what are the models of tax treatment of cooperatives and other types of social economy enterprises? 2nd. Does the OECD have any study on the impacts of a differentiated tax treatment in favour of social economy enterprises?

• **Ronald Moncayo:**  
What is the new role of the SSE in the midst of a planetary economic and health crisis that does not stop? Addressed to everyone.

• **Hellen Quiñonez:**  
A question for Antonella: Isn’t it better to maintain social transformation at the microeconomic level? Because at the macroeconomic level it has become counterproductive and has led to oppressive governments. How can a balance be achieved at the micro and macro levels? How should it work?

• **Miguel Ángel Alonso:**  
Question to Barbara: What are the minimum elements of public policy in economics that could address migrants? Mexico has been a temporary receptor of migrants, in 2018 it experienced an exodus from Central America, which has originated the need to establish work plans and programs for them. What has been the experience in this regard in Europe?

**Comments and acknowledgments**

Leandro Castro: Very clear concepts and practical experiences in Croatia and Australia.

José Guadalupe Armenta: Thank you Carol, Juan Manuel for the invitation, we remain attentive to the actions carried out in favour of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Mary Barrón: Thank you to all the panelists for sharing their experiences, and thank you for the invitation.
INAES TAB FERNANDA: Excellent information shared by the panelists, thank you very much.

José Luis Villanueva: I appreciate the invitation.

Ma. Esther Rivero Bonilla: Thank you to all the panelists for sharing their knowledge.

Sergio Antonio Martínez: The topic of social economy is very interesting, there is still much to be done, grateful for the invitation.

INAES - Eliezer Espinosa: Congratulations to the participants, the task that we have is great and the challenge is enormous, only working together in solidarity and humane way we will be able to overcome and move forward.

Irma Quiñones: Thanks for the invitation, thanks to the panelists for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us.

**Relevant observations or conclusions keynote speaker / panelists / moderator:**

**Antonella:**
- Always in search of good SSE practices and experiences to make them visible at an international level.

**Bárbara:**
- Congratulates INAES and the Congress for this initiative.
- Remember that Latin America and Mexico have a great history of cooperativism and collective undertakings. The SSE is the main ally in the fight against social and economic inequality.

**Benjamín:**
- INAES seeks to enhance this history of cooperativism in Mexico.
- The way out is the SSE in the face of neoliberalism, it is how we will be able to move forward.

**María de los Ángeles:**
- In Mexico we need to recognize our power and turn to see other successful international
experiences.
- Economy that favors and focuses on all people.
- We are working to have a regulatory framework that can support the SSE in our country.

Juan Manuel:
- The Social Economy is intrinsically obliged to dialogue and to generate horizontal dialogues to realize an inclusive economy.