



**Local Governments and Social Economy:
co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy**

**GSEF Global Virtual Forum
4-8 October 2021**

SESSION REPORT

Title of the session:	Initiatives and alliances between local governments and SSE actors to build a new economy
Type of session	Workshop
Language:	English
Date:	October 8th, 2021
Time:	18:00-19:30
Participants	20

Name of moderator

Dara Hout / Phare Performing Social Enterprise

Speakers

Bernard Luyiga - SENECA
 Young Kim - SSEGOV
 Martin Van Den Borre - Fab City
 Eric Leyton Inostroza - ENSIE

Summary of presentations:



- Intro moderator
- Intro session
-

1st speaker: Mr Young Kim - Network of local governments promoting SSE

- introduction of SSEGOV - established in 2013
- promotion of SSE and social innovation as an important strategy for regional development
- why was it formed
 - 1950s - Korean War
 - 1960s - era of the military government - starting point for the SE scene: coop movements from the religious orgs
 - 1970s - social movements for democracy
- snapshot of the Korean SSE sector
 - legal framework
 - recent policy initiatives
 - 2017: social economy revitalisation strategy as a national task
 - 2018: the social finance revitalisation plan
 - 2020: SE enterprise job creation
- what do we do at SSEGOV
 - Capacity building for policymakers and practitioners - workshops study tours to the regions where they have the best practices in the SE
 - development of policies and legislation - social finance, socially responsible procurement, urban regeneration
 - agenda setting related to SSE - cooperate with many partners in both public and private sectors, including civil society for setting SSE-related agendas and raising awareness of SSE
 - identify scalable social enterprises and support scale-up - linked them with impact investors or potential buyers so that they can have better opportunities to scale up
 - cooperating with a wide spectrum of international partners - chantier, karl planyi institute, RTES, government of Costa Rica, AVPN, GSEF
 - crucial player in the Korean landscape - according to research has made important achievements of SSE - had to overcome a few challenges
- challenges:
 - lack of consistency in the public sector - most public officials are obliged to get assigned to a different department every two years - you cannot have well trained and experienced public servants
 - solution to the lack of consi
 - lack of awareness on SSE - many lawmakers did not understand why SSE is important
- expanding engagement for SSE



- the more lawmakers and policymakers consider the SSE as a serious policy alternative for an inclusive society, the more people will benefit from the SSE ecosystem
- once we reach a tipping point in terms of engagement

2nd speaker: Mr Eric Leyton - Work integration social enterprises and international cooperation

- ENSIE - European Network of Social Integration Enterprises - established in May 2001 in Belgium
- gathers 29 national regional and local networks of WISEs (Work Integration Social Enterprises)
- objective: representation, maintenance and development within Europe of WISEs networks and federations
- enterprises whose social objective is the social integration and civic participation
 - social and professional integration of individuals, who through their exclusion have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps
 - play a role in social and professional requalification training programs that restores to individuals
- main focus areas
 - wises and policies
 - access to markets
 - access to finance
- international cooperation
 - CIESCOOP
 - academic center belonging to the Faculty of Administration and Economics of the University of Santiago
 - objective: study, promote, disseminate and train on the issues of SSE, coops, social entrepreneurship and the third sector
 - born in 2009
 - social inclusive coops/inclusive co-ops in latin america
 - developing a program to promote Social Inclusive Cooperatives for people with disabilities, supported by the National Service for People with Disabilities
 - inclusive social entrepreneurship is a valid alternative for people with disabilities, enhancing their autonomy - recognise them as persons with rights
 - developing a model centered on enabling municipalities to run Social Inclusive cooperatives
 - 1st international webinar #inclusivecoops
 - July 28, 2021 - international experiences of work
 - aim - try to help and sustain the business of these entrepreneurs
- cooperatives being helped - Hortinclusiva Co-op Chile; Blind Therapists Co-op Chile
- next projects - Ibero-American Network for the New Economy -from Mexico to Chile + Portugal and Spain



3rd speaker: Mr Bernard Luyiga - Laying the foundation for SSE Agenda in East and Central Africa

- 22 countries
- Population - 646 millions
 - more than half of the population of Africa
- Opportunities
 - rich in natural resources: water, oil natural gas
 - home to 30% of the world's mineral reserves
 - 40% world's gold
 - vast population
 - youngest population on the planet - 40% under 15
- even though we are the richest in resources, we are the poorest
- challenges:
 - out of 10 of the poorest countries in the world - 5 are in this region
 - poor governance - long serving leaders - healthcare, security
 - corruption
 - food insecurity - 64% between 2016 and 2020 have become food-insecure
 - unemployment
 - not on track to meet the SDGs - end hunger and ensure access to safe food
 - in 2020 africa was the sole continent where political violence rose relative to 2019
- Solving the problems:
 - SSE is what Africa needs
 - only the SSE Agenda that can act as a shock absorber to such outbreaks
 - to achieve the SDGs target - the SSE ecosystem must be high on the agenda - social profitability
- Background to formation of SE network
 - from the skills acquired through GSEF capacity building trainings and knowledge acquired through GSEF publications
 - most of the 16 countries are considered low-income countries
 - many of these crises spill over borders - drought in the horn on Africa affected 13 million people
 - SENECA - Network of 5 organisations
 - incorporated on 13th Jan 2021
 - 62,500 USD budget
- if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together - we want people to work together and formulate ideas together

4th speaker: Mr. Martin Van Den Borre - Fab City global initiative and SSE

- international initiative to develop locally productive and globally connected, self-sufficient cities and territories
- building a new economy based on distributed data and manufacturing infrastructure that operates harmoniously within the bounds of the planets resources



- Product in / trash out model - every step of the way we generate trash - one of the objectives is to move into a data in / data out model - to bring in as much manufacturing into the local level as possible - achieve circular economic models and using data and knowledge as elements
 - domestic production - digital production at home , community gardens, schools with 3D printing
 - what travels globally mostly to be data and not products - increase employment locally and economic development
- reconciliation - social economy is a tool as well
- economic contribution - SSE organisations employ and mobilise a large portion of the global workforce - 20% (more than multinationals)
 - important role in producing the food we consume, and energy as well
- examples
 - fab labs prototyping urban factories to answer the need for PPE (personal protection equipment) during the pandemic
 - Fédération des Coopératives du Nouveau-Québec - transportation, tourism, retail, production, education - region as big as Scandinavia and they make up a lot of the economy
 - ecological farming and circular economy - autonomous from multinationals even when making their own electronics
 - Solon collective - local geothermal, methanisation projects

Answers to the MAIN QUESTION:

- **Question:** What should be the actions or strategies of individuals, governments, groups, societies, countries, to achieve a better and more inclusive world? What key actions should be promoted from the local level?
 - o Answers:
 - **Martin:** first infrastructure is the human infrastructure - changing almost everything and for that to happen we need human infrastructure - local interactions linking to global change and to face global challenges
 - **Young:** from my experience, at the local level, I think that all actors, governments, SSE practitioners, they have to get together first and no matter how difficult it is, talk to each and lead to a concrete outcome of their dialogue - they will be able to move on to the next level. In Seoul, we created a table to co-produce policy measures and budget between the SMG and practitioners in Seoul - it was very difficult, as it was the first time, and before then they had never spoken to each other, but now we got used to each other and are



learning with each other - we are in the same boat to promote SSE to make people's lives better

- **Bernard:** the most critical is the need for national linkages and partnerships in various countries - in Uganda, if we did not have capacity building trainings we wouldn't be where we are - knowledge sharing - i get to know how everyone does it in their own countries - appreciate cultural differences
- **Eric:** there is no legal framework about these social coops - and that is important - there is a link between a social enterprise and a normal one and there is legal framework pushing that

Answers to the GUIDING QUESTION:

- **Question #1:** 1. What is the tangible and real benefit of cooperation networks in the social and solidarity economy sector?
- 2. What is the role of governments in fostering cooperation between different actors and sectors?
- 3. What are the main challenges in promoting alliances for the SSE with other sectors and actors that are not necessarily involved in the social economy?
- 4. How can the development of local, regional, and international alliances lead to a better recovery from crises such as the one caused by COVID-19?

Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:

- What is Fab? Where does the name Fab City come from?
 - - fabricating, fabricar, making things
- What can be done?
 - **Eric:** cooperation among cooperatives
 - **Martin:** intracooperation - push for CSR and in our companies it is in our DNA - outreach among ourselves, but also with private enterprises. Farming coops - social economy based but the enterprises are family businesses or private businesses - bring values within those sectors and broaden that intercooperation.
- How did you get the public and private sectors to get along?
 - **Young:** the will of the political leaders was important, back then the Mayor was very enthusiastic about SSE and all the other actors were encouraged to work together with the civil society actors, not only with SSE sector - even with that, unless you have enough time to get along to exchange ideas, it won't be that easy to get along



Screenshots of the zoom session

