



MEXICO CITY 2021
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Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity

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Plenary 1 Session report

Session title:	SSE in Times of Great Challenges: A Strategy for Inclusion and Well-Being
Session type:	Plenary
Date:	October, 19 th 2020
Time:	8:30 a.m.
Language(s):	Spanish - English - French
Participants (number of people connected)	765 Zoom

Name of the moderator:

Jason Nardi, Coordinator of RIPESS Intercontinental, Italy

Name of the panelists/commentators:

- 1. Soham El Wardini**, Mayoress of the City of Dakar, Senegal
- 2. Yoo Yuwon**, Executive Director of Salim Healthcare Social Cooperative, Korea
- 3. Jorge Bragulat**, Director of the Center for the Study of the Social Economy, Universidad 3 de febrero, Argentina
- 4. Gianluca Salvatori**, Secretary General, EURICSE, Italy
- 5. Marguerite Mendell**, Research Professor, Concordia University, Canada
- 6. Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier**, General Director of INAES, Mexico

Introduction: **Juan Humberto Cerdio Vázquez, INAES, México**

The Social Economy is a way to overcome the current crisis and generate well-being throughout the world.

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Moderator: Jason Nardi

We are facing a new paradigm that changes the way we do our economic exchanges.

"The SSE must be seen not as a third sector of the economy but as a vector of change and transition towards a different economy, one that becomes the leading economy with the most humanity".

Humanity and the planet are constantly living in crisis; the future of humanity is at risk today.

There is more and more economic injustice and, perhaps more importantly, we have crises in democracy so that the way we govern our communities and society is at risk.

“We must recognize that the financial and market economy is more the cause of the problems than the solution. We must not continue to pursue excessive growth, consumerism, focusing on supply chains, on the generation of energy that is so destructive to the planet and to our well-being”.

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During the pandemic very few multinational companies have stopped growing and, according to the ILO, small local businesses have in many cases lost their livelihoods and income; 155 million jobs have been lost in recent months.

We must find a solution and do it quickly, a welfare based, livelihood-based economy that considers that we are at the limits of our planet's capacity, we must seek a more inclusive participation focused on empowering communities, making better use of technologies and media. We must unite our voice to find a joint solution, SSE is a good response locally, across borders and internationally, we must globalize solidarity.

Round 1:

- In this era of the COVID-19 crisis, we face unprecedented challenges, but also opportunities. What are these challenges and opportunities and how is SSE responding and working for a better world for all, where no one is left behind?

Round 2:

- What are the important roles and contributions to the recovery from the crisis from the SSE perspective?

• Soham El Wardini

1st Round

- In Dakar the SSE contributes to the welfare of the population, the government has shown interest in the SSE, often it was women who gathered to have extra sources of income to meet their needs.
- The city of Dakar contributes to the well-being of the population through the support of women to develop different productive activities; the implementation of actions for the benefit of children and the promotion of young entrepreneurs.
- There is the PASEPS, a project to support populations in extreme poverty with which 173 requests have been financed.
- There is also the FODEM which is the Municipal Development Forum that has the objective of fighting against urban pauperization, with which women's groups have been supported and 463 women have obtained employment.

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- In the face of the pandemic, it became evident that a great part of the products that are consumed come from abroad, so the population has realized that the local economy must be developed, to produce in the country itself.
- In 2020, FODEM formed 13 groups comprising 382 women, who were given training and support to open accounts and develop agricultural projects.
- Ten thousand people were trained, and 147 community development centers were created.
- The opportunity for a first work experience was offered to young people.
- With the Association of French-speaking Mayors, financial support was provided to young people.
- There is also the Mutual Savings and Credit Association of the municipality, which is a financial tool of FODEM and has more than 5,000 members who act as municipal agents.
- **“In the face of adversity, more solidarity is required”**
- “Well-being is necessary for good living”.

2nd Round

- The City of Dakar has developed a community strategy to promote the SSE based on three axes: 1) bringing together governance and management tools for entrepreneurship; 2) access to credit with sustainable interest rates; and 3) inclusive financing with training, accompaniment, mediation services, marketing, among others.
- A coaching program has been implemented to bring together the different actors of the SSE.
- The contribution of the SSE to all areas and sectors should be encouraged.
- A program was implemented to support trade and services; work continues on the recovery of the local economy; and support is given to social enterprises and in particular to young entrepreneurs.

• Yoo Yuwon

1st Round

- Salim Health Cooperative is a nonprofit, non-state actor that is comprised of 3,200 local residents, 8,000 physicians and other specialists.
- It seeks to protect the health of the population, seeking treatment for diseases and promoting health in the communities and fighting against disability.
- In response to the COVID pandemic, the cooperative supported a research center,

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its doctors began working longer hours to support residents.

- A significant number of volunteers joined to monitor and treat cases locally, creating greater solidarity in the community.

- It was possible to have input from its members to create a health center in the community.

- **"This difficult period offers the opportunity, for everyone in the world and for our local communities, to understand why SSE is so important, because we must not just focus on goods and services at the market level, bringing health and medical care to all, is essential. When we put this above economic relations we can achieve better health for all.**

- "'Through the social economy we can build better relationships."

- In the capital market, relationships are disconnected, the pandemic forces a greater connection to meet the needs of society.

- This is the time to explore all the opportunities that the SSE gives us in terms of consumer and production goods and, above all, to improve access to health in our society.

2nd Round

- Human rights involve us in a situation where we can all become a minority. It is up to us not to leave anyone behind.

- We are facing a crisis in the economy and in work and the potential and role of SSE in promoting development is not visible.

- We see that business organizations are suffering the consequences of the crisis because of COVID-19.

• Jorge Bragulat

1st Round

- The World Bank has not recorded an increase in poverty as high as in the last year, which has affected the whole world, but it has had its strongest impact on the poorest countries and fundamentally on Latin America because it is the most inequitable region. This fact makes it possible to recognize that this is where the Social Economy has the greatest opportunity to grow.

- The SSE has values, principles and theory, and has an interpretation that really convinces, but on the other hand there is "capitalism that has a powerful tool that does not convince, but overcomes" that somehow is subduing us in the injustices

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and inequities

- There is a great opportunity for the SSE because it has always grown in spaces of crisis and not in economic cycles of prosperity.
- The SSE needs to act in the recovery of enterprises. In Argentina many small and medium enterprises have disappeared, yet cooperatives have been created to take charge of this recovery process.
- About 500 cooperatives have been created during the pandemic, which, while not many in global terms, are significant in recovering businesses, income for families and solving a social problem.
- The social economy aims to resolve the economic situation and generate structural change.
- **"The SSE is an alternative project because what is altered is the social base, that is to say, that if one starts from the fact that people must be dignified, that if one starts from the value of work, that if one starts from distributive equity, from care for the environment, from fair trade, from food sovereignty, from free software, the point of arrival will be a totally different economic and social structure".**
- It is important that the large cooperative enterprises are in solidarity with the emerging ones.

2nd Round

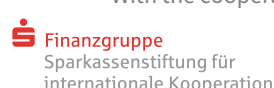
- The Social and Solidarity Economy is basically a cultural project that uses an economic mechanism or procedure to change social organization and community organization.
- Companies must be more than competitive, competent, that is, they must produce goods and services that are needed and suitable for consumption.

• Gianluca Salvatori

1st Round

- Italy was one of the countries most affected by the pandemic, which has had a strong impact on the economy and welfare by losing about 600 thousand jobs despite the effort by the government to provide a series of subsidies to businesses to compensate for the losses.
- Three observations derived from the crisis in Italy: 1) The pandemic has undermined the intentions of companies that seek greater profitability at the

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expense of people's well-being; 2) The pandemic has had the effect of making public actions a priority again; 3) Market forces have visible limits and the role of the state is fundamental, the third essential component is the community and civil society.

- The pandemic has allowed us to learn an approach that does not prioritize money and profits, but rather recovers the importance of the State, and where SE can be a space for the development of activities in the areas of health, education, among others.

2nd Round

- One effect of the pandemic has been to accelerate the transition from state wealth to societal wealth.
- A society in which health care and care services are better distributed and reach more stakeholders, for which SSE organizations will be central.
- Systems of care must be created at the local level, which is a practice that is carried out through the different forms of organization that make up the SSE.

• Marguerite Mendell

1st Round

- In addition to crisis management, the Social and Solidarity Economy is committed to eliminating structural conditions that undermine the opportunity for people to meet their needs.

- “Building organizations and systems that challenge the economic system that generates climate, social and economic inequality and injustice is essential”.

- This type of Social Economy is grounded in the territory, in the communities, is committed to the public good and well-being of the communities, has contributed to reducing poverty, increasing social inclusion, creating access to financing, supporting training, market integration, creating cooperatives, supporting youth, empowering marginalized communities and increasing mutual support.

- It is important to create political space for greater participation in the creation of post COVID strategies and on the adjustment of future ecological impact.

- In Quebec, the SSE is a movement composed of different forms of organization and social movements and is connected at the national level to the Réseau

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Chantier de l'économie sociale.

- It is important to go beyond crisis management and maintain the agenda developed over time on issues such as the digital economy, the increase of people working autonomously and independently, platform-based cooperatives, knowing how land and nature are being exploited and privatized and creating funds for public services.
- "We must transform our way of acting, we must stop just lobbying and opposing, we need to be a little more proactive to occupy the space that exists between the market and civil society to increase these spaces and be able to enhance our presence within them, working with the government and government representatives".
- "It is important for the government to see the benefit of collaborating with the SSE."
- "It is important to work collaboratively with the research communities and create opportunities for mobilization and knowledge transfer."
- **"We need to prepare the world for a different economy after the COVID, we need new economic theories, economic paradigms, the SSE is what is needed at this time."**

2nd Round

- The problem of the pandemic requires thinking about having essential workers, such as health care workers at the local level in the communities, especially for the care required for older adults.
- In another area, it is also relevant to promote agricultural production at the local level, since both food production and distribution must be based on collective organizations and enterprises at the urban, rural and semi-rural levels.
- It is necessary to insist on the generation of collaborative policies and to support governments to make their rigidity more flexible in order to have a new form of attention to economic and social problems.

• Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier

1st Round

- The SSE has the possibility to attend the victims of the crises not only by the COVID, but also by the populations most affected by neoliberalism.
- The Social and Solidarity Economy has the opportunity to do economic and

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social re-engineering.

- The Social and Solidarity Economy has the opportunity to be in two spaces, that of attending to the emergency and that of being able to change the structure through the participation of diverse actors that allows for the generation of a totally different economic and social efficiency.

- **“The great challenge lies in recognizing those small spaces where the SSE can intervene immediately, as well as those large spaces where restructuring must take place.”**

- It must be recognized that the SSE is more efficient than the capitalist system.

- “We are challenged to make visible what capitalism has obscured, to form a good SSE and, in that way, to transform the structure.”

2nd Round

- INAES has as its mandate the promotion of the Social Economy, which is a great challenge due to the size and diversity existing in the different states that constitute the country.

- The Institute is working to achieve a cultural change, and that starts by making the social sector of the economy visible so that it knows what it is and the importance it has in different areas; secondly, it is necessary to generate the tools that allow the SSE to be implemented in the territories; and thirdly, it is to create mechanisms so that money serves people and not people money, through social banking instruments that allow the great business ideas of the Social and Solidarity Economy to have a solid base of capitalization.

- To generate ecosystems where all the activities of production, consumption and savings and loans can be articulated, landed in the territories in alliance with the social actors and with governmental actors

Conclusions by speaker / panelists / moderator:


Jason Nardi

- It is not a new economic practice, but to build together a new system with the participation of all.

Soham El Wardini

- In Senegal, the Social Economy is being taken into account, and work is being

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done on a law with a social and solidarity orientation, in order to build a stronger sector.

- The actions carried out have succeeded in integrating young people into Social Economy schemes that will facilitate the creation of social enterprises.

Yoo Yuwon

- The participation of everyone is important for the consolidation of the Social Economy.
- A broader perspective based on peace and cooperation is needed to create a new economy.
- It is in times of crisis that citizens need the SSE more than ever.

Jorge Bragulat

- For a cultural change it is important to be in the territory, to work from the base uniting the different sectors, and to do it from the bottom to the top, generating autonomous and independent structures from the State. But it is also necessary to work from the top to the bottom and to dispute public policy.
- Practice must be combined with theory.
- The objective is the democratization of the economy compatible with the political democracy we seek.

Gianluca Salvatori

- In this challenge, two perspectives must be combined: on the one hand, the small scale, we have our bases in the community, but a much broader framework is required. It is necessary to unite local experiences to make a complete and comprehensive design.
- When the transition from a welfare state to a welfare society was mentioned, there is a need to unite different elements to create this new framework, this new structure that must form a coherent system of thought and action.
- There is a good narrative for the small scale, but for the large scale there is still plenty to build on.

Marguerite Mendell

- From Quebec's experience, it has been shown that citizens appropriate strategies to create a new economy by establishing alliances with other social

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movements.

- It is important to continue collaborating with governments at the regional, local and national levels to co-construct new public policies and generate spaces for actors within government to take on this institutional change.
- Innovation in the way public policies are made is required and at the same time this innovation must be institutionalized.
- There is a need for greater visibility and recognition of the Social Economy as a key factor in the generation of wealth, with a different definition of wealth generation.
- The resilience of the SSE is well known, but we must make it a structural change, we must take advantage of that resilience to create a new economic paradigm.

Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier

- The SSE is a mechanism to access well-being, but one that undergoes cultural transformation.
- The great challenge of the SSE is to dismantle the mercantilist culture of capitalism in order to access a more efficient and sustainable culture for the future.
- It requires a mechanism such as education for this new culture, education for good management of the resources for the production of life and wealth for people and their environments, and consolidating it into integrated systems.
- “We must bring the SSE to everything, and everyone is a part of it.”

GUIDING QUESTION:

How to transform the present and build a better future from the SSE?

Marguerite Mendell: We have to work a lot at the educational level to teach a new perspective within the economy, that is already happening, there are many extremely good theorists, but we have to do better, we have to succeed in reaching the academic curricula of the economy that continues to be dominated by neoclassical theory.

In sociology we have a growing presence, as well as in business schools, but not

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in economics schools. The paradigms that are taught to young people are still neoclassical and liberal, and this is a critical task.

We could move from a transactional economy to a relational economy.



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