

## Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation

GSEF Global Virtual Forum  
19 – 23 October 2020

Title of the session: **How to Make SSE Sustainable and Grow through Promotion and Support Mechanisms: Best Practices from around the World**

Type of session Workshop session

Language: English, French

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> of October

Time: 90 minutes

Participants *Zoom participation: 40*

### Name of moderator

Víctor Meseguer, Director of Social Economy Europe

### Speakers

1. Elise Pierrette, Representative of the National Network of Social and Solidarity Economy of Cameroon (RESSCAM): The Dialogue between RESSCAM, SSE networks, and the Central Government for the Promotion of SSE
2. Ms. Hager Khezami, Director, Regional Chamber for Social and Solidarity Economy (CRESS) Hauts-de-France, France: Evaluation of the Social Impact of SSE Enterprises
3. Mr. Patrice Lovesse, Groupe Béninois de l'Economie Sociale (GBESS), Benin: The Organization in Cooperatives and Supporting Marginalized Women in the Commune of Bohicon through Joint Action by GBESS and the Municipality
4. Ms. Helen Heap, Visiting Fellow of Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice, and Place University of Liverpool, United Kingdom: Designing Social Investment and Support for the Social Economy, by the Social Economy - Lessons Learned from Liverpool City Region
5. Ms. Khady Samba, Director for Supervision of SSE, Senegalese Ministry for Microfinance and SSE: The Promotion of SSE in Senegal
6. Astrid Kaag, Senior Policy Advisor - International Relations, Province of Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands



Screenshot of the zoom session





## Summary of presentations:

### 1. Ms. Elise Pierrette, National Network of Social and Solidarity Economy of Cameroon (RESSCAM):

RESSCAM has understood the need to work together with the government and establish alliances with other SSE actors, in order to influence the public policies in favor of SSE actors. In order to achieve its goals, RESSCAM made a 3-step process: (1) support for the creation of places for SSE actors, (2) create a formal alliance with the government and (3) alliances with other actors. The first step was realized thanks to the creation of the RENAMUSCAM (Réseau National des Mutuelles de Santé du Cameroun) or the support for the creation of a place for SSE parliamentarians. Plus, they also signed a convention with the Ministry in charge of Social Economy which enabled a formal partnership with the government. Finally, this convention also enabled RESSCAM to work with other social civil experts and organizations. This has permitted the development of universal security and health coverage to the country.

### 2. Ms. Hager Khezami, Regional Chamber for Social and Solidarity Economy (CRESS)

She has presented a project called "VISES" which aims at giving value to the SSE enterprises and promoting the necessary support for those SSE enterprises in a certain area and the well-being of its citizens. This project is a 4-year research followed by 4 steps: (1) the diagnosis and definition of the evaluative question, (2) the decision-making of which method to use for the question (3) the collection of data and (4) the analysis and valorization of the results. VISES takes a political and strategic approach, but also holistic and based on the creation of a partnership between members.

### 3. Mr. Patrice Lovesse, Groupe Béninois de l'Economie Sociale (GBESS)

Mr. Lovesse has explained the main functions of the GBESS, which was created in 2008 and brings together 11 organizations engaged in the promotion of SSE in Benin and for its recognition at the institutional level. The GBESS includes 11 member organizations: 2 women's groups, 1 foundation, 1 federation of producer groups, 1 national network of CAVECA (Caisse Villageoise d'Epargne et de Crédit Autogérée), and 5 NGOs. GBESS intervenes in the fields of activity of its members, more particularly the groups of women for which the Group provides assistance in the management of a capacity building project. Some of its active programmes include the modernization of the agricultural sector, educational initiatives for resolving youth problems, the support for civil society and SSE actors or the promotion of solar energy in domestic usages. He has also emphasized its close approach with the government in order to influence public policies.

#### 4. Ms. Helen Heap, Institute for Public Policy

Ms. Heap has explained the initiative called “Kindred” which is an innovative locally owned vehicle that aims to grow the social economy across the Liverpool City Region by supporting Socially Trading Organizations through investment, partnership and other support. Its three main objectives are to (1) pool money from both national and local funders combined with non-financial support, (2) to actively engage with local individuals and communities who have their own idea to generate community wealth and (3) to increase the sustainability of those organizations by facilitating transfers between the public sector and the SSE. Founders like “power to change” or “Seeborn Hill” who have actively supported the initiative together with city actors such as the Metro Mayor or the Liverpool City Region. They concluded that SSE needs a credible voice and a seat around local policy-making tables and be a core part of the solution to local and regional problems.

#### 5. Ms. Khady Samba, Director for Supervision of SSE, Senegalese Ministry for Microfinance and SSE: The Promotion of SSE in Senegal

Ms. Samba has analyzed the situation of the ESS in Senegal, in which there’s a strong political will – there is a special ministry in charge of the ESS – and a strong attachment between SSE actors and support for their initiatives. In order to promote the SSE, the first step was placing the SSE into the national statistics and the economy of the region. Then, an elaboration and orientation of the strategy is necessary. Finally, there’s a need to identify the actors more influential as well as organize the organizations and its representatives. Other mechanisms that they have considered necessary include fiscal measures as well as social measures to support security institutions and encourage the participation of private actors.

#### 6. Astrid Kaag, Senior Policy Advisor of Netherlands

Ms. Kaag has elaborated on the initiative of the Brabant Outcomes Fund which aims at stimulating the scale of impact of social enterprises through a 3-step process: measure well-being in a broad sense (2) increase access to growth and (3) breakdown silos within the policy bodies. This initiative also aims at making growth capital available for companies that contribute to sustainability, digitization, food and nature and health. However, the downside of the initiative is that It is so new that the political sector does not understand its role and how it is done. Lessons learned include the collaboration and balance between the top-down decision-makers and the local needs which might have little impact but this has a domino effect.



## **Answers to the GUIDING QUESTION:**

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

All panelists have agreed that in order to build a better future there's a need to take a political and strategic approach as well as a collaborative one, in which the solutions include the local governments and the other actors of the SSE (civil society and other international organizations). Ms. Helen Heap has talked about the Kindred initiative which is a specific SSE initiative designed for Liverpool City. This need to look for more local solutions, which is also a key step in order to build a better future for the SSE, also in accordance with Ms. Astrid Kaag, which clearly supports the need to do small steps to have a big impact. Ms. Khady Samba has also included the need to make private actors participate in the process and from the experience in the promotion of SSE in Senegal, she has concluded that an elaboration of a clear strategy and the mapping of solutions is key for a better future for the SSE.

## **Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:**

Abel Mexico

There's a need to work as a group and drive our efforts to the constitution of laws in favor of the ESS and work together effectively in order to manage better future pandemics.

## **Add summary or conclusion of the moderator at the end of the session in case there was no closing remarks per presenter/speaker**

Victor Meseguer (moderator)

- In view of all that has been said, there's a need to act collectively in order to change top-down decisions. In this regard, the SSE and the civic movements around the world have the necessary tools to achieve these goals.
- We must mobilize not only money, but ideas; we must mobilize solidarity and cooperation at global level and we must push for an economic policy that the European Union has already promised and have confirmed that this will have an international impact. Therefore, there's still hope for advancements in this sector, especially in those developing countries who need other methods to change its reality.

Elise Pierrette, RESSCAM

- We need to be accompanied in the actions plans for implementing SSE initiatives, and this requires to show the added-value of the SSE as well as its impact in our economy. This demands not only actors, but also experts and academics and founders who are able to push SSE activities and solidarize to implement the SSE agenda.