

MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

*“To be part of a global social economy network
where we seek collaborations across borders and cooperation
based on ‘public-private-community partnerships’
for a better world.”*



INTRODUCTION

The **Global Social Economy Forum** (hereinafter referred to as “GSEF”) is a global Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) network that aims to serve as a hub for sharing visions and experiences through collaboration across borders and cooperation based on multilateral (public-private-community) partnerships for an inclusive, equitable and human-centered world.

The development of GSEF began with the Seoul Declaration, which was adopted by eight local governments and nine SSE organizations on the occasion of GSEF 2013 held in Seoul from November 5 to 7, 2013 on the theme ‘New Discovery of Collaboration’.

Following this first successful event, GSEF has held, since 2014, biennial international forums hosted by its member cities across the continents. [GSEF2014](#) was organized in Seoul with the founding General Assembly of GSEF to pursue the global expansion of knowledge-sharing and cooperative relationships among social economy actors. The 3rd edition of the forum, [GSEF2016](#), which took place in Montreal on the subject of ‘Local governments and social economy stakeholders – allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities,’ was a very important milestone for the global visibility and expansion of the GSEF network. These forums are **one of the most prestigious international gatherings on SSE**, bringing together all levels of stakeholders, from international organizations, local/central governments and civil society networks, for mutual learning, agenda setting, and knowledge exchanges.

GSEF 2018 took place in the city of Bilbao under the theme ‘Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development’. It gathered over 1,700 participants from 84 countries and successfully strengthened the momentum toward advancing the international agenda on SSE.

GSEF2021, to be held in Mexico City, will showcase creative ideas and visions, practical proposals, and collaboration opportunities about how SSE can contribute to building inclusive and sustainable societies for everyone as a response to the current important momentum of political and social changes arising globally.

GSEF accompanies local governments across the world in the collaboration process with SSE actors toward the co-creation of public policies and the establishment of sustainable ecosystems conducive to the development of SSE.

GSEF’s long-running series of regional policy dialogues on different continents, including Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, is a good example of local governments and SSE actors gathering and discussing under common agenda and goals.

As of May 2020, GSEF brings together **75 members from 36 countries on all 5 continents**, including 26 local governments, 35 SSE networks and 14 SSE organizations/enterprises. As a GSEF member, you can share your experiences and learn from others, expand your network, and discuss best practices through different GSEF programs.

We look forward to welcoming you to the GSEF network! For detailed information about GSEF membership, please refer to the following information.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Full Membership (with voting rights)

It is open to local governments and SSE networks as detailed below.

- The *Local Government membership*: open to any local autonomous entity, government, and association at both the local and national level.

- The *Social Economy Network membership*: open to any regional, national, continental, and worldwide network working in various fields of SSE including supporting organizations and associations.

A full member possesses the right to vote and is eligible to run for election.

2. Associate Membership

Open to any SSE organization wishing to actively participate in GSEF's activities.

3. Honorary Membership

Offered to individuals or organizations that have made a notable contribution to diverse SSE sectors and/or GSEF's activities. Candidates for honorary membership shall be nominated by the GSEF Steering Committee and approved by the General Assembly.

4. Partners

Partners include intergovernmental organizations, national governmental agencies, and civil society and private sector organizations working with GSEF in a broader sector including social economy and appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.

APPROVAL AND WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Approval

Membership applications are reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and submitted for decision to the GSEF Steering Committee.

Withdrawal

A member may withdraw its membership by informing the GSEF Secretariat in writing.

Warning and Disqualification

The GSEF Steering Committee may take the necessary steps to decide on the disqualification of a member if that member is harming or contravening the vision, mission, objectives, and/or the Charter of GSEF. The GSEF Steering Committee shall go through the designated formalities to disqualify the member.

BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Membership benefits

- Enjoy priority invitation to activities and programs of GSEF.
- Bring your voice to major SSE-related conferences and events at the global level.
- Expand your network with GSEF members and partners.
- Enhance the visibility of your organization and activities through GSEF's communication channels.
- Contribute to shaping the regional and global SSE agenda as part of GSEF.
- Benefit from discounted or waived participation fee to GSEF events.
- Enjoy the right to participate in the decision-making process within GSEF¹.

¹ applicable to *Full membership* only

Membership Responsibilities

- Support and collaborate on the activities and programs of GSEF
- Practice solidarity in the exchange of experiences, knowledge and information for the development of SSE ecosystems.
- Promote the importance of collaboration and co-construction among local governments and SSE actors.
- Pay an annual fee to contribute to GSEF's activities at the service of all members (See below)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members are required to pay an annual membership fee starting from the year immediately following the year when they become members of GSEF. Membership fees vary depending on the population and the GDP per capita² of the country from which the member originates or where the duly authorized government office is based. Please find below the membership fee table (in USD).

Full Member - Local government membership fee

Population ('000)		0~999	1000~4999	5000~9999	10000~
GDP per capita (USD)	0~999	300	400	500	600
	1000~9999	1000	1500	2000	2500
	10000~14999	2000	4000	6000	8000
	15000~	4000	6000	8000	10000

Full Member - Social Economy network membership fee

Population ('000)		0~999	1000~4999	5000~9999	10000~
GDP per capita (USD)	0~999	50	70	80	90
	1000~9999	100	130	150	180
	10000~14999	200	300	400	500
	15000~	300	500	750	1000

² **Note 1:** The latest World Economic Outlook Database published by the International Monetary Fund shall be applied in calculating the GDP per capita in the table above. The GDP per capita is based on purchasing power parity. **Note 2:** The membership fee amount in any given year is determined based on the GDP of the year immediately preceding the previous year. **Note 3:** Once approved, all members are eligible for one year of membership fee grace period. Once the grace period ends, annual membership fee applies the next fiscal year onward. **Note 4:** The population figure used for the calculation of local governments' membership fee shall be based on their respective city population, while the membership fee of national SSE networks shall be calculated on the basis of the total population of their respective country. * *The latest World Economic Outlook Database published by the International Monetary Fund can be found at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLS/world-economic-outlook-databases>*



GSEF MEMBERSHIP I. Application form

GLOBAL SOCIAL ECONOMY FORUM (GSEF)
Office n°2, 13F, Seoul Global Center,38, Jong-ro,
Jongno-gu, Seoul, 03188, Republic of Korea
Tel: +82(0)2-6953-7044 / Fax: +82 (0)70 4010 5551

Full Member – Regional and International SSE Network membership fee

# of countries where members are located	Membership fee
0~999	500
1000~9999	1000
10000~14999	1500
15000~	2000

Associate Member: 50% of full members' fee

1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Please tick the membership category for which you are applying.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Membership <i>A full member possesses the right to vote and is eligible to run for election. It is open to local governments and social economy networks as detailed below.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local government membership <i>is open to any local autonomous entity, government, and associations at both the local and national level.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Economy Network membership <i>is open to any regional, national, continental, and worldwide network working in various fields of SSE including supporting organizations and associations.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Membership <i>is open to any local government and SSE organization wishing to actively participate in GSEF's activities.</i>
	Honorary Membership <i>is given to an individual or an organization that has made a notable contribution to diverse SSE sectors and/or GSEF activities. An honorary membership shall be nominated by the GSEF Steering Committee and be approved by the General Assembly.</i>
	Partner <i>Partners include intergovernmental organizations, national governmental agencies, and civil society and private sector organizations working with GSEF in a broader sector including SSE and appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.</i>

** If you or your organization wishes to be considered for an Honorary Membership or to join as a Partner, please contact the GSEF Secretariat, for these two categories are appointed by GSEF Steering Committee.

Please provide the following information required to calculate the amount of the membership fee. You can check your index on the following website at:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLS/world-economic-outlook-databases>

Country Name	
Population <i>* If you are a local government, please indicate the population of your city. If you are an SSE network/enterprise/organization, please put the latest statistics of your country population.</i>	
GDP per capita based on PPP (USD)	

2. CONTACT DETAILS

General Information	
Official Name (indicate acronym if applicable)	
Address	
Telephone / Fax No.	+ / +
E-mail Address	
Website	

Leader of Executive Authority	
Name (Dr./Mr./Ms.)	
Official Title	(e.g. Mayor/CEO)
Term of Office	(mm/dd/yyyy) ~ (mm/dd/yyyy)
Telephone No.	+
E-mail Address	
Focal Point for Liaison with the GSEF Secretariat	
Name (Dr./Mr./Ms.)	
Official Title	(e.g. Director/Manager)
Department/Division	
Telephone No.	+
E-mail Address	
Skype ID or Whatsapp No. Skype: _____ / Whatsapp: _____	

3. SIGNATORY

Name	(Signature)
Position/Function of the Executive Authority	
Date	(mm/dd/yyyy)

<Some Important Notes>

- *In cases of applications submitted by local governments, the signature of the mayor or of the appropriate delegation only is considered to be valid.*
- *In cases of applications submitted by SSE network/organization/social enterprises and others, the signature of the head of the organization/network/enterprise or of the appropriate delegation only is considered to be valid.*

4. OTHER QUESTIONS

1) Please briefly describe the current status of your city/organization in relation with SSE. You may also provide us with more information such as legal status, governing rules, ongoing activities, and plans in terms of SSE.

2) How did you get to know GSEF?

3) What do you expect from joining GSEF?

4) How would you like to collaborate with GSEF?

5) Please list any other membership or network to which you are affiliated.

6) If any, please attach the recommendation letter from the existing GSEF member.

Note: Membership applications are reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and submitted for decision to the GSEF Steering Committee. The whole registration procedure is detailed in a separate clause. Please send the completed membership application form via e-mail, mail or fax to the GSEF secretariat. After receiving the application, the GSEF staff shall contact you regarding the membership fee.

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<Modified by the 2nd GA held in Montreal on 9th Sep 2016: Chapter 2 Article 4 Clause 1, Chapter 3 Article 8.1 Clause 4>

<Modified by the 3rd GA held in Bilbao on 2nd Oct 2018: Chapter 3 Article 3.1 Clause 4, Article 3.3, 3.5, Chapter 4 Article 4.3, Chapter 6 Article 6.1 Clause 3, Chapter 7 Article 7, 7.1, 7.2 clause 1, Article 7.3, 7.4 clause 1 5 6, Article 7.5, Chapter 9 Article 9.1 Clause 1>

PREAMBLE

Our world today has yet to recover from the economic crisis and the ecological crisis. To overcome such global challenges, we believe that creating a 'better world' and 'better life' through social economy is essential. Social economy refers to a form of economy that seeks to solve the present issues through trust and cooperation and forge communal solidarity.

'Seoul Declaration' adopted on the 5th of November, 2013 summarizes the spirit mentioned above. In 2014, we take a step further to adopt the Charter of the GSEF for the systematic progress and global solidarity of social economy.

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Our Identity

- 1.1. For the global solidarity of social economy, we establish the Global Social Economy Forum (hereafter referred to as the "GSEF"), as a non-profit international organization.
- 1.2. Social economy achieves the value of solidarity through trust and cooperation and the local community is its most fundamental foundation.
- 1.3. The main subjects of the social economy are cooperatives, community enterprises, social enterprises, credit unions, micro credit, non-profit organizations and et cetera. Charities and social investment fields are included in this category.
- 1.4. The GSEF does not accept discrimination and injustice of all kinds towards nationality, race, religion and gender or sexuality.
- 1.5. The GSEF aims for multi-dimensional progress. We acknowledge the pluralism of human nature, social economy organizations, macroeconomic and political aims. We pursue progress that harmonizes such pluralism.
- 1.6. In particular, the GSEF values the autonomy of grassroots organizations and in accordance with this

value, we believe it is essential to complement the policies of both the local and central governments.

Article 2. Our vision, mission and objectives

- 2.1. Vision: the GSEF aims for the harmonious progress of market economy, public economy, social economy, and ecology in general. Such progress will make the best use of an individual's ability and solve social problems through solidarity among social economy subjects. Therefore, the GSEF serves as a global solidarity network to achieve these goals.
- 2.2. Mission: Through the collaboration between social economy organizations and local governments, the GSEF pursues creation of quality jobs, fair growth, progress of grassroots democracy, and sustainable development. Values such as human dignity and sustainable ecology are to be the underlying principles for every activity of the GSEF. The GSEF contributes to enhancing the quality and quantity of shared resources and promotes the fair approach and use of such resources. The key to reclaiming the commons is trust and cooperation, which are the fundamentals for social economy. Ecosystem, culture, knowledge, and historical resources of all local communities are all important objectives of the GSEF's activities.
- 2.3. Objectives
 - 1) The GSEF promotes both personal and material exchanges and sharing among the main global actors of social economy. To this end, GSEF will establish on/offline platform and create diverse programs to activate the personal and material exchanges.
 - 2) The GSEF supports local government and non-government agencies to create a stable social economy network through the public-private-community partnership.
 - 3) The GSEF supports every effort to form social economy associations and social economy supporting bodies in each region. Through these organizations, the GSEF promotes various joint projects to spread the ecology of social economy on a global scale.
 - 4) The GSEF acknowledges the responsibility to support developing countries which suffer from poverty and serious underdevelopment, thereby promoting global solidarity and cooperation in the field of social economy to enhance the environment, economy, society, and culture of those countries.
 - 5) The GSEF supports various global movements that are compatible with the social value we uphold and furthermore promotes collective actions to solve problems that the humanity confronts.
 - 6) The GSEF may set up a fund to support social economy when necessary.

CHAPTER 2. MEMBERSHIP

Article 3. Membership Categories

- 3.1. Membership of the GSEF, in principle, is divided into four categories.
 - 1) Full Member
 - 2) Associate Member
 - 3) Honorary Member
 - 4) Partner
- 3.2. Full Member
 - 1) Full member consists of local governments and social economy network members. A full member possesses the right to vote and is eligible to run for election.
 - 2) Local government membership is open to every local autonomous entity, government, and both local and national level associations.
 - 3) Social economy network membership is open to all the networks of regions, nations, continents and the globe, that are working in various fields of social economy including supporting organizations and associations.
- 3.3. Associate Member: Associate membership is open to every local government and social economy-related organization wishing to actively participate in the GSEF's activities.
- 3.4. Honorary Member: Honorary membership is given to an individual or an organization that has made notable contribution to diverse social economy sectors and the GSEF activities. An honorary

membership shall be nominated by the GSEF Steering Committee and be acknowledged by the General Assembly.

- 3.5. Partner: Partner is either an intergovernmental organization, a national governmental office, or a civil/private organization/enterprise working with GSEF in a broader sector including social economy and appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.

Article 4. Registration and Withdrawal of Membership

- 4.1. Registration: Member registration is reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee of the GSEF and the concrete registration procedure is decided by a separate clause.
- 4.2. Withdrawal: A member may withdraw its membership by informing the GSEF Secretariat in a written format. Withdrawal procedures are stated in a separate clause.
- 4.3. Warning and Disqualification: The GSEF Steering Committee may take the necessary steps to decide on the disqualification of a member if that member is harming or contravening the Vision, Mission, Objectives, and the Charter of the GSEF. The GSEF Steering Committee shall go through the designated formalities to disqualify the member. Also a member who did not pay the membership fee for two consecutive years shall lose their membership automatically, except the case of specific decision made by the Steering Committee.

Article 5. Rights and Solidarity of Members

5.1. Rights

- 1) Every member can participate in the activities and programs of the GSEF. They can also gain access to all information, resources, and records related to the GSEF.
- 2) To pursue individual development and achieve common goals, a member can suggest specific ways to consolidate solidarity and cooperation. Each member can also set forth his or her view through diverse communication channels in the GSEF, and fully exercise his or her rights in accordance with the decision making process within the GSEF.

5.2. Solidarity

- 1) Every member supports and collaborates in the tasks and programs promoted by the GSEF.
- 2) Every member practices solidarity in the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and information needed for the expansion of the ecosystem of social economy.
- 3) Every member pays an annual fee to contribute to the GSEF's fiscal self-reliance and solidarity among all members.

CHAPTER 3. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

The GSEF shall have three executive organizations as follow:

- 1) General Assembly
- 2) Steering Committee
- 3) Secretariat

Article 6. General Assembly

- 6.1. General Assembly: General Assembly consists of the full members of the GSEF and is the highest decision-making body in the following instances:
- 1) GSEF projects and finance
 - 2) Benefits of the GSEF members
 - 3) Election of chair-city, co-chair city and regional/continental vice chairs and steering committee members
 - 4) Selection of host city for the next General Assembly
 - 5) Amendment of the GSEF Charter
 - 6) Dissolution of the GSEF
 - 7) Other important agendas regarding the GSEF organizations and its management

6.2. Governance of the General Assembly

- 1) Any decision at the General Assembly, except those on dissolution of the GSEF and amendment of the Charter, are made by the majority vote of the full members present unless the General Assembly reaches the agreement by deliberation.

6.3. Hosting General Assembly

- 1) The GSEF's General Meeting will be hosted biennially and its host city shall be decided at the General Assembly.
- 2) A local government that wants to host the next general assembly should submit a proposal and an official letter from its representative to the GSEF Secretariat at least 90 days before the opening of the General Assembly.
- 3) A local government that has been chosen as the host city for the next General Assembly should form a public-private organizing committee and submit its 'plan of action' to the GSEF Secretariat one year before the next General Assembly.
- 4) The host local government of the next General Assembly of the GSEF shall be in full charge of the overall preparation for the General Assembly through an agreement with the Secretariat.
- 5) A provisional general meeting of the GSEF may take place with the agreement of the two-thirds (2/3) of the current members of the GSEF Steering Committee.

6.4. Amendment of the Charter:

- 1) The amendment of the Charter shall be decided when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the current full members are present and the two-thirds (2/3) of the present full members' consent.

6.5. Dissolution of the GSEF

- 1) The dissolution of the GSEF shall be decided when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the current full members are present and the two-thirds (2/3) of the present full members' consent.

Article 7. Chair-City, Co-Chair City, Regional / Continental Vice Chairs, and Steering Committee

7.1. The GSEF elects a chair-city, a co-chair city, and regional/continental vice chairs and sets up a steering committee.

7.2. Chair-city

- 1) A Chair-city is elected at the General Meeting. The mayor of the elected chair-city and a representative from a social economy network member shall be the co-presidents of the GSEF.
- 2) A chair-city represents the GSEF and presides the meeting of the GSEF.
- 3) The tenure for chair-city and co-presidents is 2 years and they may serve in consecutive terms.
- 4) If a local government that is a full member wishes to run for office, it needs to express its intention by submitting a document to the GSEF Secretariat 60 days before the next general meeting and the GSEF Secretariat must inform all the members promptly.

7.3. Co-Chair City and Regional/Continental Vice Chairs

- 1) Co-chair city and regional/continental vice chairs are elected at the General Assembly.
- 2) For the co-chair city, the representative of the local government and the agreed representative of social economy organizations of the region shall take the role of co-6 presidents.
- 3) For regional/continental vice chairs can be either the representative of the local government or the social economy network in the region.
- 4) Co-chair city and regional/continental vice chairs must put their efforts to promote GSEF network and activities in their respective region.
- 5) Co-chair city shall take the role of chair city in the unexpected occasion of the chair-city's vacancy.
- 6) The tenure for the co-chair city and regional/continental vice chairs is 2 years and they may serve consecutive terms.
- 7) To be a candidate for co-chair city or regional/continental vice-chair city, the document of intention should be submitted to the GSEF secretariat 60 days before the next General Assembly, and the Secretariat must inform all the members promptly.

7.4. The Structure of Steering Committee

- 1) The Steering Committee of the GSEF consists of co-presidents from the chair-city and co-chair city, regional/continental vice chairs, elected steering committee members, and two representatives from the host city of the next General Assembly. The number of all Steering

Committee members should not exceed 20.

- 2) All members of the Steering Committee except the representatives of the host city of the next General Assembly are elected at the General Assembly. The tenure for the members of the Steering Committee is 2 years and they may serve consecutive terms.
- 3) If a member wants to run for a Steering Committee member, it should express its intention by submitting a document to the GSEF Secretariat according to the rules agreed by the Secretariat based on broad geographic representation and the balance in the ratio of local governments and social economy organizations.
- 4) In constituting the Steering Committee, the balance in the ratio of the local government members and social economy network members should be maintained reasonably.
- 5) Steering Committee can appoint the specialists of social economy or related fields as advisors for the improvement of GSEF activities and programs and the advisors can be invited to the Steering Committee by the request of the Steering Committee or the Secretariat without the right to vote.
- 6) The Secretary General attends the steering committee as mandatory and takes the administrative role of the committee without a right to vote.

7.5. Function of Steering Committee

- 1) The Steering Committee of the GSEF should hold an official meeting at least once a year. The committee shall be responsible for auditing, execution of the GSEF projects, review of membership applications, and review of host city candidates for the General Assembly.

Article 8. Secretariat

8.1. Secretariat

- 1) The co-chair shall appoint the secretary of the GSEF Secretariat, which shall be approved by the Steering Committee.
- 2) The GSEF shall establish its Secretariat and the office of the GSEF Secretariat shall be located in Seoul, South Korea.
- 3) The Secretariat should be in charge of the execution and reporting of all decisions at the General Assembly and the Steering Committee. It should also support holding the General Assembly and other meetings in regard.
- 4) The GSEF should be responsible for all budgetary management of its Secretariat. The city hosting the GSEF Secretariat can provide extra staffs and bears the expenses of management, including personnel expenses of the Secretary General and staffs within the authority and budget of hosting city.
- 5) The Secretariat shall employ staffs for the Secretariat according to its needs and should conclude a hiring contract according to international labor standards.

- 8.2. Special Division: The Steering Committee may manage a special division for specific projects in the Secretariat if necessary.

CHAPTER 4. FINANCING

Article 9. Source of Revenue

9.1. The GSEF's source of revenue is as follow:

- 1) Annual Membership Fee
Steering Committee shall decide the annual membership fee rate by taking into consideration the type, size and financial capacity of the members. The Steering Committee may decide on exceptional cases involving financial and economic status of particular members and may suggest reasonable alternatives.
- 2) Funds for joint projects that are raised by local governments, international organizations or acknowledged private organizations including the GSEF members
- 3) Special donation such as voluntary donation from members and non-members
- 4) Profits through selling published materials, event fees and various contracts
- 5) Non-financial donations

Article 10. Expenses

- 10.1. The GSEF is responsible for its own operating expense, including its Secretariat's administrative expenses and the costs for provisional general meetings, and other extra expense acknowledged by the Steering Committee.
- 10.2. Expenses for projects: A portion of the expenses of a specific project proposed by local governments that is not a general GSEF project should be paid by local governments that suggested the specific projects.
- 10.3. Expenses for hosting the General Assembly: the host city of the General Assembly shall prepare the budget for hosting the General Assembly.
- 10.4. Fund: The GSEF can use its fund to support social economy in each area
- 10.5. Fiscal year for the GSEF starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year. At the end of each fiscal year, the Steering Committee shall examine the account book submitted by the Secretariat and if necessary, the committee may take further review through a public audit board.

CHAPTER 5. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION

- 11.1. This Charter shall take effect on the day of the acknowledgment in the inaugural meeting of the GSEF.