



Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy

Supporting the development of **Social and Solidarity Economy** worldwide



Global organization of local governments
and civil society networks
for Social and Solidarity Economy



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The Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy (GSEF) was founded in Seoul (South Korea) in 2013, and is **an international organisation of local governments and civil society networks operating on a local, national or world scale**. All its members are committed to promoting the principles and values of the Social and Solidarity Economy as a means to achieve local development which is respectful of humans and the environment.

GSEF members, present in 37 countries, represent SSE in its various forms, i.e., the social companies, cooperatives, foundations, mutual organisations, local authorities or solidarity groups which put people before profit and advocate a collective, viable and innovative economy.

Since its creation, the GSEF has worked to build and drive a global movement to unlock the potential of SSE in forging sustainable local growth across the five continents. While 2022 and 2023 were pivotal years for the recognition of the SSE on an international, national and local scale, it must pursue its efforts to inform populations and promote the practical implementation of Social and Solidarity Economy policies.

SSE defined

According to the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE), the Social and Solidarity Economy refers to the production of goods and services by a wide range of organisations and businesses with explicit economic, social and often environmental objectives, and who are guided by the principles and practices of cooperation, solidarity, ethics and democratic self-governance.



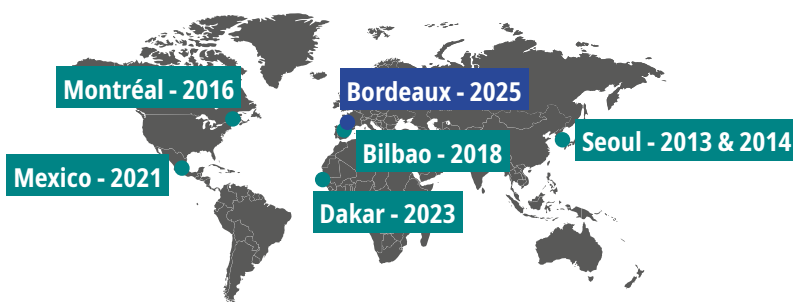
Vision

- GSEF **strives for a fairer world** with decent working and living conditions. It **aims to reduce inequalities and meet fundamental needs**.
- It is based on the **belief that systemic changes begin on a local level**, drawing on a partnership between civil society and the private or public sectors. The ultimate aim is that the SSE grows to become **the economic standard of the future**, incorporating collective management of shared assets.
- It is based on the **sharing of international experience and inspiring innovations** to address the major social and environmental challenges facing regions. It places the SSE at the service of communities and local government by providing resources and implementing SSE policies.
- It **cooperates with international networks**, while seeking a complementarity which is respectful of local diversity and identity. This action enables a coming-together of forces according to priorities, to promote SSE and the shift in development models it can bring about.
- It **shapes a core framework** for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



The Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum

Every two years, a Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum is co-organised with member cities worldwide. This forum has become a key event to take stock of the SSE's dynamism, and its political aspect is embodied by the Declaration issued after each edition. This gathering forms an ideal platform for mutual learning and the exchange of knowledge and visions around all aspects of the SSE.



The **7th edition** of the GSEF's Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum will be hosted **in Bordeaux, France**, from **October 29 to 31, 2025**.

All SSE stakeholders are invited to come and share their experiences and expertise, reaffirm their commitments, and demonstrate the strength of the movement that the SSE is driving for just transitions towards sustainable and inclusive development in all territories.



BORDEAUX 2025

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

29 - 31 October 2025



bordeauxgsef2025.org

Five areas of action



Advocacy on a local, national and international scale

GSEF defends the values and potential of the SSE on a global level, and has been working for many years with international, national and regional SSE networks, in addition to international entities such as the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), to promote the international recognition of the SSE.



Training and boosting regional abilities : from raising awareness to developing public policies

Thanks to its sound expertise in the SSE, GSEF offers numerous training possibilities to boost regional abilities, learning and policy dialogue.



Support for the development of public/private actors networks

GSEF provides SSE players from the public sector and civil society with a platform to exchange ideas, find potential partners and develop a solidarity support network. GSEF members can provide their expertise and experience to assist local players wishing to develop SSE networks on a regional level.



Applied research and publications

GSEF works alongside world-renowned researchers and institutes such as the UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development) and the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy. It contributes to the publication of reports and case studies proving the impact of SSE and demonstrating its potential in the creation of various international development programmes.



Promoting initiatives and experience sharing

GSEF creates in-person and virtual networking opportunities to connect members, facilitate exchanges between policy-makers and SSE players and strengthen the political framework of the SSE in various continents. In particular, it organises thematic working groups on finance, the impact of SSE public policies, responsible public procurement, discussions on a continental scale, in addition to meetings between policy-makers and SSE players on a regional level.



The GSEF SSE Youth Hub

Launched following the Call of the Youth issued at the DakarGSEF2023 Forum, the GSEF SSE Youth Hub offers a privileged place to the youth dynamic within the GSEF, and pursues three objectives, declined by its continental co-pilots in each region of the world:

- **Raising awareness:** Promoting SSE values among young people.
- **Advocacy:** Enhancing their role as players in just transitions.
- **Support:** Backing young people's projects via platforms, incubators and cooperatives.

More information at gsef-net.org/en/sse-youth-hub

Governance

The GSEF's purpose and stance are reflected in its governance with **the co-presidency of a local government (represented by the mayor of the chair city) and a representative of civil society networks.**

The decentralization of the network was asserted in 2021 with the creation of continental co-chairs whose role is to represent the GSEF and support its activities in their respective regions. The governance of the organization and **its fundamental principles are defined in the GSEF Charter.**



GSEF Co-Presidency



CITY OF BORDEAUX
FRANCE
Mr Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux
alternate :
BORDEAUX MÉTROPOLE
Ms Christine Bost, President



REGIONAL SSE CHAMBER OF NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE
representing **ESS FRANCE**
FRANCE
Mr Stéphane Montuzet, President



Continental Co-Presidencies

NORTH AMERICA

CITY OF MONTRÉAL
CANADA
Ms Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal
CHANTIER DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE
CANADA
Ms Béatrice Alain, Executive Director

ASIA

SSEGOV
ASSOCIATION OF KOREAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOLIDARITY
SOUTH KOREA
Ms Bora Kim, President
Mayor of Anseong-si, Gyeonggi

AFRICA

CITY OF DAKAR
SENEGAL
Mr Barthélémy Dias, Mayor of Dakar
PLATFORM OF NON-STATE ACTORS
SENEGAL
Mr Malick Diop, National Coordinator

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

INAES
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY
MEXICO
Ms Catalina Monreal, Executive Director

EUROPE

NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE REGION
FRANCE
Mr Alain Rousset, President of the Region
alternate :
GIROUDE DEPARTMENT
Mr Jean-Luc Gleyze, President of the Department

CONCERTES
BELGIUM
Ms Bénédicte Sohet, Secretary General

General Assembly

The highest decision-making body which brings together all GSEF members and elects a host city for the Global SSE Forum every two years.

Steering Committee

Twenty cities and networks are elected to be a part of it. It is entrusted with deciding on the strategy of the GSEF and monitoring its actions.

Advisory Committee

This reflection and proposal body supports the General Secretariat in its action. It is composed of the founding members and SSE experts from the five continents.



GSEF General Secretariat

Following on from Seoul, the GSEF General Secretariat has moved to Bordeaux, France in 2022. The General Secretary, Aude Saldana, is supported by a team comprising a Programme Coordinator, a Communications and Network Officer, a Research Mission Officer and an Administration Officer. The team is growing in order to further and implement its expertise and skills in GSEF's various fields of intervention.



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Digital version

JOIN US

GSEF is open to all local governments and civil society actors and networks engaged in promoting SSE and seeking to resolve via the SSE the local and global challenges faced by communities and regions across the world.

Membership of GSEF enables you to:

- ▶ Become a part of a solid and recognised SSE network ;
- ▶ Access a platform to connect with other members and SSE players in your country and worldwide ;
- ▶ Exchange ideas on best regional practices from around the world and receive sound advice on how to implement them ;
- ▶ Acquire tools and the support of renowned experts with local and regional knowledge to build a global strategy for the development of SSE in your region;
- ▶ Make your voice heard on regional, national and international scenes and contribute to the development of agendas ;
- ▶ Participate in GSEF's decision-making processes ;
- ▶ Boost the visibility of your organisation and promote your activities through GSEF's communication means.

Secrétariat
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Place Pey Berland
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France

To find out more, contact us at gsef@gsef-net.org
or visit our website

www.gsef-net.org

