

Contribution Guide

Drafting a Local SSE Policy Note for the Observatory

THE OBSERVATORY OF LOCAL SSE POLICIES

The Observatory of Local SSE Policies is defined as a GSEF platform dedicated to highlighting best practices, serving as a space for knowledge exchange and providing reference points for local authorities and all stakeholders interested in local public policies regarding the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

History

The creation of this Observatory is rooted in the DNA of the **GSEF**, an international association of local governments and civil society networks engaged in the promotion of the SSE as a means to achieve inclusive and sustainable local development. Consequently, this initiative falls squarely within the GSEF's core activities: promoting initiatives and experience sharing, as well as fostering applied research and publications.

The establishment of this Observatory falls within the remit of the **GSEF Research Working Group** on the "Impact of SSE Public Policies on the Achievement of the SDGs," coordinated by Marguerite Mendell (Karl Polanyi Institute) and Timothée Duverger (Head of Terr'ESS, Sciences Po Bordeaux). In October 2025, during the Global SSE Forum BordeauxGSEF2025, the Working Group published a [collection of 17 working papers](#) on the theme "Local SSE Policies Enabling the Socio-ecological Transition." These papers examine two fundamental dimensions: the contribution of local policies to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and the paradoxes associated with the institutionalization of the SSE. They thereby illuminate a spectrum of SSE-related public policies, whether directly or indirectly linked, serving to **interrogate, inspire, and catalyze action**.

Meanwhile, within the Research Working Group, a report on job guarantees, led by Timothée Duverger, is currently being prepared. Its aim is to analyze social and solidarity economy (SSE) **policies related to employment**, similar to the "Long-Term Unemployment-Free Territory" initiatives.

Building upon this corpus of texts, the GSEF aims to establish an international Observatory, thereby ensuring the **permanent and continuous** publication of notes and ongoing reflection on local SSE policies.

The Observatory's Mission: inspiring action through example

In a context where local authorities are seeking concrete solutions to address territorial challenges, the Observatory fulfills three key functions:

- Make local expertise **visible**, by offering an international **showcase** for the innovative practices of local authorities engaged in the SSE.
- Facilitate **access** to knowledge, by enabling any local authority, **anywhere** in the world, to consult proven public policies adapted to varied contexts.
- Provide **levers for action**, by transforming feedback and case studies into pragmatic tools for designing, improving, or evaluating their own initiatives.

The Observatory's Vision

- To serve as a **dynamic** platform for pooling and disseminating innovative and inspiring experiences in local SSE policies, providing **key insights for implementation**.
- To become a global reference for local governments, SSE networks, international institutions, and researchers.

The Team

The management of the Observatory of Local SSE Policies is entrusted to a dedicated team within the GSEF.

The Steering Committee : strategic and operational coordination

- Composition: Timothée Duverger, Marguerite (Margie) Mendell, Colombia Pérez Muñoz, and Aude (representing the GSEF General Secretariat).

The Scientific Committee : strategic orientation, analysis, and outreach

- Composition: a diverse group of experts including members of the former Research Working Group and selected professionals from the GSEF network (researchers, practitioners, experts), with a specific goal of ensuring balanced representation across all continents.

The Peer-Review Committee : quality assurance and editorial validation

- Composition: A specialized subgroup of volunteers from the Scientific Committee, working in tandem with one GSEF team member responsible for formatting and dissemination.

THE POLICY NOTE IN A NUTSHELL

Objective

The policy note is the core of the Observatory. It details the sectoral, cross-cutting, and innovative dynamics of local SSE policies.

Authored directly by local authorities (*), it must offer a clear, pragmatic, and inspiring overview of your local SSE policy. Far from an exhaustive administrative report, this document aims to share your experience to enlighten and equip other local authorities worldwide.

* The Observatory is aimed at local authorities, working in collaboration with social and solidarity economy actors and organizations and researchers. However, this collaboration is an opportunity, not a requirement: each territory is free to engage partners of its choice based on its own resources and needs when contributing.

Format and style

- The note must be drafted using the "Template - Editorial" (available on the Observatory's "[Contributions](#)" page).
- Between 10,000 and 15,000 characters, including spaces.
- All acronyms must be spelled out upon first use, either in the text or in a footnote.
- Bibliographic references must be placed in footnotes.
- The four guiding questions below are suggested as a flexible framework. You are free to structure your note as you see fit.

Submission Guidelines

- **Email Subject Line:** please strictly use the following subject line: AAC - GSEF Observatory - Name of your local authority.
- **File Format:** submitted files must be in Word or OpenOffice/LibreOffice Writer format.
- **Authorship:** Notes are written directly by local authorities. Each territory is free to engage partners of its choice based on its own resources and needs.
- **Signature and endorsement:** The note must be endorsed at a political level. It requires the official signature of the relevant local authority. Exceptional arrangements may be considered (to be discussed directly with the Observatory team).

The Peer-Review Committee conducts an initial review of the article, specifying any desired modifications or additions to the author. Once agreement is reached on a final version, the document undergoes a final internal check focusing solely on formatting before being sent for publication.

Note to writers

The quality of the Observatory relies on the diversity and precision of contributions. Do not hesitate to illustrate your points with concrete examples or key figures.

Submission and publication are free of charge. All published articles are available in Open Access.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Content guidelines

Notes may cover a local SSE policy as a whole, or focus on a specific policy (e.g., public procurement) or a particular project, selected for its impact or innovative nature.

- **What is the local identity of the SSE in your territory?**

Specify the framework of values and norms underpinning your policy, as well as the specific terminology or label used to define it (social economy, solidarity economy, popular economy, social entrepreneurship, NPO, etc.).

- **How was the policy developed and implemented?**

Describe the co-construction process, the actors involved (civil society, private sector, institutions), and the participation mechanisms established throughout the policy cycle (agenda-setting, decision-making, evaluation).

- **What concrete levers have been activated to support the SSE?**

Detail the support instruments (grants, access to public procurement, land use, engineering support) and explain how the SSE is integrated transversally into economic development plans and public action sectors.

- **What are the main innovations or experiments implemented?**

Highlight the original mechanisms, pilot projects, or new approaches that distinguish your territory, along with the initial lessons learned from these initiatives.

For more information, please contact the Observatory team at: observatory@gsef-net.org.