



MEXICO CITY 2021
GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

Local Governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy

Call for Proposals

Do you implement or conduct research on Social and Solidarity Economy practices?

Do you want to make your voice heard globally?

JOIN US!



Introduction

The Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) is a global network of local governments and actors from various sectors: private, civil, academic, among others, which aims to share visions and experiences through collaboration and cooperation to build an inclusive, equitable and human-centered world. GSEF is an international platform for the promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

GSEF organizes biennial international forums with its member cities across the continents. It is one of the most prestigious international gatherings on social economy, bringing together all stakeholders from international organizations, local/central governments and civil society networks.

The 5th edition of GSEF that will be hosted in Mexico City, Mexico, was initially programmed for 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will eventually take place from the 4th to the 8th of October 2021. GSEF2021 will continue the momentum of global efforts for an inclusive economic development with people-centered values through the promotion of the SSE.

Towards the preparation of GSEF2021, a series of meetings, webinars and GSEF Global Virtual Forum 2020 were held, where experts and participants from the 5 continents were invited. These activities reached more than a million people from more than 120 countries, resulting in publications that can be consulted at www.gsef2021.org

In this way, **GSEF** and the **GSEF2021 Organizing Committee** constituted by the **Mexico City Government (Secretariat of Economic Development, Secretariat of Labor and Employment Promotion and Division of General Coordination of Advisors and International Affairs)**; by the **Government of Mexico (National Institute of Social Economy of the Ministry of Welfare)**, and **together with the other 16 organizations¹** collaborated and made it possible to present the GSEF2021.

GSEF2021 will have a hybrid format of both face-to-face offline and virtual sessions under the central theme:

¹ Laboratory of Social and Economic Innovation; Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla; Sparkassenstiftung für internationale Kooperation; International Cooperative Alliance; ECOOS-School of Social Economy; Department of Social Economy of the Ajuntament de Barcelona; Universidade Estadual Paulista / UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy; Mondragón Mexico University; Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin; National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy in Argentina; Platform for Solidarity Economy in Guatemala (PECOSOL GT); Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy. Latin America and Caribbean Region (RIPESS LAC); Superior Council of Cooperativism; Youth Network Social and Solidarity Economy-GSEF; National Mount of Mercy; Cooperativa Jardín Azuayo; Interdisciplinary Professional University of Engineering and Administrative Social Sciences of the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico

Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy

Local governments play an essential role in creating ecosystems based on a more green², inclusive and sustainable economy, through a new architecture that allows, together with communities, to respond to current crises, in order to ensure equal opportunities, the protection of the environment, promote access to decent work, support social entrepreneurship and stimulate the economic proximity of local products and companies.

Likewise, private, social and academic sectors are also fundamental actors for these purposes and through their practices they determine the new post-pandemic paths in order to strengthen SSE in collaboration with governments.

Therefore, for this edition of GSEF Forum we open the Call for proposals to all sectors of our society to join in the search for alternative ways to foster new development

The 5 sub-themes, under which initiatives can be presented are described below:

Sub-themes

• 1. Build and rebuild an inclusive community.

"It is necessary to abolish the administrative and political barriers that limit SSE and to create new instruments and new legislation to strengthen it"

Bernarda Sarué Pereira

The recognition, appreciation and respect for the diversity of people and societal groups, as well as the attention to their needs in conditions of equity, are essential to achieve inclusive societies. How do we fulfill these premises from SSE? How SSE is responding to the challenges through innovative projects and initiatives, paving a new way towards an inclusive and green economy? How SSE helps to reestablish and strengthen the social fabric and systems for all?

² An economy low in carbon and efficient in the use of natural resources, in addition to traditional inputs such as labor, fossil energy and capital. A green economy values and invests in natural capital and offers better conditions to guarantee sustainable growth and seeks to conserve and preserve the environment to guarantee the sustainable paths of development of production for future generations.

• 2. Education, learning and research for Social and Solidarity Economy

ESS is a process of continuous learning and building-up. Education, transfer and development of knowledge through families, societies and educational institutions are important pillars in the appropriation of the SSE values and principles. In the post-pandemic era, what are the innovative training systems for and from SSE? What are the academic and research proposals to overcome the great challenges of today, from the dynamics and experiences of SSE?

"To make changes for the future, we must begin to educate the whole of society in different aspects that allow us to reach a society with solidarity which is environmentally sustainable"

Ana Karina Quintero

• 3. Contribution to ecological transformation from SSE

"We need a whole new way of thinking [...] We need to cooperate and work together and share the resources of the planet in a fair way."

Greta Thunberg

The current environmental crisis (climate change, pollution, deforestation, etc.) places humanity at a serious risk and at the same time takes us to another dimension of thinking towards a new development: production, distribution and consumption with ecological responsibility for our planet. How to reshape our society and economic processes towards practices which have as their premises preservation of nature and values such as solidarity and cooperation for a more equitable and just development? Is it possible to implement an economic system that achieves an ecological balance between sustainable development and the quality of life of humanity based on the SSE model?

• 4. Promote diverse and innovative mechanisms of social finance

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Financial innovation will have today more than ever as a challenge, the search for the incorporation of the human dimension to the field of finance, due to the emergence of innovative projects with the vision of SSE, prioritization of criteria that seek the redistribution of economic resources, innovation and digital transformation in its services. How do we make these changes for cooperation and development purposes? Social finance should guarantee financial inclusion. How to promote and democratize access to financial services in order to give viability to local productive initiatives that contribute to global well-being? How does Social Finance support scaling-up and empower existing initiatives?

"Financial inclusion is not only access to credit, but the integration of popular forms of savings and credit to the national financial system"

Geovanni Cardoso

• 5. Develop the territorial and international alliances

"Continuous dialogue that is translated into partnerships and active participation of the SSE actors and intermediary organizations will make SSE sustainable and then become a reality"

Cherry Sung

The consolidation of SSE as an alternative economic model goes through exchanges of good practices on its implementation cooperation through networks of all social actors, the establishment and strengthening of its ecosystems, as well as the creation of alliances for the financing of initiatives to expand the benefits of these experiences. How to leverage these exchanges from the territories, from the local, and articulate them between the regions and countries, to the global level, as key strategies to generate well-being and inclusive and sustainable development?

APPLY

FROM MARCH 2 UNTIL APRIL 9, 2021

WWW.GSEF2021.ORG

GSEF2021 will seek to give continuity to the dialogues and ideas shared from the activities carried out in 2020, among other actions:

- Exchange experiences of economic, sustainable and inclusive development and well-being based on Social and Solidarity Economy.
- Identify local or alternative solutions integrated by cooperative networks and other forms of Social and Solidarity Economy.
- Make public policy projects or initiatives visible in line with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Social and Solidarity Economy.
- Find proposals for ways based on Social and Solidarity Economy against economic and social crisis emanating from the current pandemic.

Steps to follow

1. Visit the website www.gsef2021.org, choose the language: Spanish, French, or English.
2. Choose the category and subtheme in which you would like to apply.
3. Fill out and submit the form by April 9, 2021, 23:59 (GMT-6)

Categories:

Individual initiative – round tables

- Individuals or institutions with initiatives on the subtheme of their interest may apply to be part of the thematic round tables during the Forum from October 4 to 8.
- The selection committee will evaluate and group relevant topics for thematic round tables, with a total duration of approximately one hour and a half. Generally, three to five initiatives are invited, from different countries or sectors, under a common theme.

Self-organized sessions

- Individuals or institutions may organize their own session, with the possibility to propose own title, moderator, panelists and co-organizing institutions to invite, among other elements.
- The selected self-organized sessions will have a space for participation during the GSEF2021 Forum depending on the relevant subthemes.

Participant profile and requirements

In GSEF2021, people may participate individually or collectively as part of SSE organizations, governments of any level, international organizations, social enterprises or any other interested stakeholders. In case of organization or collective project, the proposal must be made by one representative. In any case, the following requirements must be met and/or submitted:

- Biography in maximum one page with the information about the applicant's experiences. It must be submitted in accordance with the format available on the official website*.
- Initiative proposal in Spanish, French or English to participate in individual initiatives or self-organized session, must be submitted through the official website*.
- Letter of assignment of rights, according to the format, of use of the information of the proposal with which it is applied and the image of the participant for dissemination activities and registration of GSEF2021.
- (OPTIONAL) Video on YouTube, of maximum 2 minutes, presenting the proposal according to the category and selected subtheme.

**These documents must be presented in PDF format, no more than 3 MB*

If selected, the participant must follow the steps indicated by the organizers. In case you participate in the face-to-face sessions, process and cover immigration requirements and, where appropriate, health criteria to enter Mexico according to the country of origin. If necessary, the Organizing Committee may issue a selection letter to accompany the process.

Benefits and considerations when being selected

The representatives of the projects and initiatives selected from both categories will have a chance to present their initiative during the Forum week, either online or in person.

Selection committee and criteria

The projects and initiatives of both categories will be selected by GSEF2021 Organizing Committee formed for this call. Diversity in geographic balance, gender balance and other important elements such as representation of youth, women, indigenous peoples and communities will be considered at the time of selection.

The following will be prioritized:

- Members of the GSEF association.
- Projects and initiatives:
 - Built on collaboration between governments, organizations and Social and Solidarity Economy enterprises and businesses of for the co-creation of public policies
 - Innovative projects and initiatives
 - Public policies in line with the achievement of the SDGs through Social and Solidarity Economy

*IMPORTANT: only proposals submitted through the official website will be considered:
www.gsef2021.org.*

The methodology and evaluation criteria will be proposed by the selection committee and the decision of the Committee will be final. Any matter not considered within this Call will be resolved at the discretion of the Committee, which reserves the right to designate the number of participants.

Calendar

Launch of the GSEF2021 Call for proposals	2 March 2021
Submission Deadline	9 April 2021
Publication of results and contact with the selected proposals	End May 2021
Global Social Economy Forum GSEF2021	4 to 8 October of 2021

More information in:

www.gsef2021.org
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