



Global Forum  
for Social and Solidarity  
Economy



# 10 years of GSEF!

SUCCESS OF THE DAKAR GSEF2023 FORUM  
AND STRENGTHENING OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK

## 2023 Activity Report



10 years of commitment  
to Social and Solidarity Economy

Global organization of local governments and civil society networks



**Pierre Hurmic**

*Mayor of Bordeaux, GSEF Co-Chair City*

"The city of Bordeaux is honored to co-chair the GSEF since October 2021. Over the past two years, we have successfully met the challenge of relocating from Seoul to Bordeaux. Despite major changes in governance and the General Secretariat, the momentum and influence of our organization has continued to grow over this period. This success is based on the active participation of our members within the organization, and their ongoing commitment to promoting and supporting the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy in their respective territories and areas.

In 2023, the GSEF's Global Forum, co-organized with the City of Dakar, RACTES and Senegal's Ministry of Microfinance and SSE, brought together nearly 6,000 participants, marking a resounding success on an international scale. It undeniably launched an African dynamic that will come to fruition in 2024 with the organization of FORA'ESS. The momentum created by the recognition of the SSE by the highest international bodies has paved the way for a crucial phase in the implementation of these reference texts, which the GSEF is responsible for supporting.

In 2023, numerous projects have been launched, and continental roadmaps have been developed, thanks to continental dialogue meetings and the leadership of our continental co-chairs. Thematic working groups have been launched: I'll mention two of them in this introduction, which are close to my heart:

- 1) the launch of the SSE Youth Hub: raising awareness and supporting young people towards decent work is a major focus of the GSEF and will be taken to Yamoussoukro in 2024 during the SSE Young Leaders Forum;
- 2) the «Research» working group will enable the publication of studies on the impact of local public policies on the achievement of sustainable development goals.

In 2024, we are committed to further consolidating our network and fostering exchanges within our community, with our members and partners, in order to co-construct models adapted to local diversities and accelerate the development of a fair and sustainable economy, at the heart of environmental and social transitions.

We look forward to the next edition of the Forum, to be held in Bordeaux from October 29 to 31, 2025. On behalf of the 4 local authorities and CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, we would like to express our gratitude for the trust placed in Bordeaux, along with the City, the Metropolitan area, the Gironde Departmental Council and the Regional Council of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, to host this major GSEF event. We invite every GSEF member to mobilize to ensure the success of this event for all players committed to the development of the SSE."



### **Stéphane Montuzet**

*President of the Regional SSE Chamber of Nouvelle-Aquitaine*

*GSEF Co-Chair SSE Network*

«CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine is pleased and honored to co-chair the GSEF and represent the actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy who work every day for fairer, more democratic and sustainable local development.

Our strength and wealth lie in our ability to be an organization that is both international and deeply localized. Every GSEF member, on every continent, contributes to enriching our action plan, which aims to bring about the necessary change of scale in SSE worldwide.

The recently-established SSE Youth Hub must be further strengthened and given a central role within the GSEF. Convincing and mobilizing future generations is essential to the sustainability of the SSE, its values and its project. The empowerment of future generations is an ongoing concern for GSEF.

Current times, marked by international and national political challenges, remind us of the importance of our commitment to emancipation and the defense of humanist values. More than ever, the SSE is called upon to act as a bridge between peoples, and the GSEF must embrace this role.

Faced with these challenges, we need to strengthen our cooperation and alliances with other international SSE stakeholders.

We are stepping up our actions, towards greater development. Our presence on every continent and the development of ambitious continental roadmaps reflect our determination to be present and take on our responsibilities. They embody this moment, post UN resolution, which after its recognition must intensify the development of the SSE.

Our governance must continue to evolve in order to give everyone a place. The GSEF must federate and be an effective echo chamber for the will and dynamics of the SSE worldwide.

On the economic front, we need to diversify our financing and develop a range of services suited to the international role we intend to play.

After Dakar, the projection of Bordeaux 2025 opens the door to a new stage rich in exchanges, shared experiences and inspiration.

The future of the SSE depends on our shared commitment, and I'm convinced we're on the right track.»



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The creation of the GSEF in 2013 was an important step in the international recognition of the social economy as a strategic vector for the social and ecological transition of cities. Initiated by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the GSEF stands out from existing international SSE initiatives and networks. Its focus on the involvement of local governments is a clear affirmation of their crucial role in the governance and resolution of the major challenges of the 21st century, from climate change to social cohesion and inequalities. Its structure, based on a fundamental partnership between local governments and civil society, is also a clear statement in favor of the renewal of democratic processes and the need for a better balance between the private, collective and public sectors.

In the space of 10 years, the GSEF has become a recognized global network, demonstrating its ability to mobilize a wide range of players on every continent. This ability is reflected in the success of the six GSEF Global Forums held every two years (Seoul, Montreal, Bilbao, Mexico and Dakar).

The GSEF is also seen as a major force for convergence, through its many partnerships and strengthened collaborations with other international networks, as well as a force for action, which is demonstrated by its international scope and presence on every continent; by its territorial vision of the SSE and local economic development; by its political support from local governments and cities; and by its accompaniment and support for the development of ecosystems.

## ◆ Vision

Since its creation, the GSEF has been based on the conviction that systemic changes begin at the local level, drawing on partnerships between civil society and the private and public sectors. The ultimate aim is for the SSE to change scale and become the standard for the economy of the future, integrating collective management of common goods.

The GSEF is based on cross-border sharing of inspiring experiences and innovations that address territories' major social and environmental challenges. It places the SSE at the service of communities and local governments, by providing resources, expertise, awareness-raising tools and training to support the emergence and implementation of SSE policies.

The GSEF cooperates with international networks, which are also members, while respecting the expression of the diversity and identity of each and seeking to complement each other. This collective action makes it possible to unite forces around common priorities in order to promote the SSE and, with it, a transformation of development patterns. The GSEF offers a frame of reference for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

## ◆ 5 areas of action



Advocacy on a local, national and international scale



Promoting initiatives and experience sharing



Support for the development of public/private actors networks



Applied research and publications



Training and boosting regional abilities: from awareness-raising to public policy development



# Governance and network animation

The City of Bordeaux and the Regional Chamber of the Social and Solidarity Economy of Nouvelle-Aquitaine (CRESS N-A) have held the GSEF Co-Chair since October 2021. This Co-Chair embodies the variety of our organization's members (e.g. local governments, networks of municipalities, networks of SSE players, NGOs, universities etc.) and reflects the vision founded around the necessary dialogue in the co-construction of public policies promoting the development of SSE, and the territorial cooperations essential to meeting the fundamental needs of communities, at the heart of economic, inclusive and environmentally sound development.

Ensuring the smooth running of internal governance and the animation of a worldwide network of 84 members is a daily challenge. Animating the network remains a priority for 2024. We must continue to strengthen our shared identity and cultivate a sense of belonging to the network.

The GSEF, in line with its charter and values, aims for democratic governance and therefore must:

- Support members of the Steering Committee in the political leadership of the organization;
- Enable the Steering Committee to play an active role in the GSEF's strategic choices;
- Strengthen the role of continental co-chairs in promoting the GSEF, its advocacy and its missions on a continental scale;
- Ensure the participation of all members in the life of the GSEF and its missions;
- Promote the involvement of members in the GSEF.

The new members of the GSEF Steering Committee were elected at an Extraordinary General Assembly in November 2023, for a 2-year term. This Steering Committee will be responsible for supporting the organization until the BordeauxGSEF2025 Global SSE Forum.

## GSEF MEMBERS IN 2023

The GSEF has **84 members** in **37 countries**.

By membership category		By type of organization		By region	
29	Full members - Local governments	24	Local governments	1	Middle East
28	Full members - SSE networks and actors	7	Local government networks	3	North America
26	Associate members	1	Multi-stakeholder network (local governments and actors)	9	Latin America and the Caribbean
1	Honorary member	23	Civil society networks	17	Europe
		20	Actors (NGOs, Cooperatives, Foundations, Social Enterprises)	20	Asia
		5	Universities / Research institutes	34	Africa
		4	Social/Solidarity Finance institutions and networks		

### Geographical distribution



### 2 new members in 2023

- Pour La Solidarité - PLS (Europe)
- SSE & Territories Chair, Sciences Po Bordeaux (France)

**22 organizations interested in joining GSEF**



### 3 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The General Assembly is the central decision-making body, bringing together all GSEF members once a year and electing the Steering Committee and the host city of the Global SSE Forum every two years.

During 2023, GSEF brought all its members together on three occasions, at two Extraordinary General Assemblies in videoconference format, as well as at an in-person General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal. The meetings are translated live into English, French and Spanish, and the minutes are sent to all members.

#### ◆ Extraordinary General Assembly

*March 24, 2023, Videoconference*

- Finalization of the creation of the GSEF association under French law
- Appointment of the statutory auditor who will certify the association's accounts for 5 years
- Inclusion of the Advisory Committee's mandate in the GSEF Charter

#### ◆ 2023 General Assembly

*May 5, 2023, Dakar City Hall*

Meeting on the penultimate day of the GSEF2023 Global SSE Forum, bringing together almost 50 member organizations. The Mayor of Bordeaux and the President of CRESS N-A chaired the meeting, and joined all members in congratulating the co-organizers on the work they had done to make the Forum a success.

- Validation of the GSEF's moral and financial reports for 2022
- Election of INAES to the vacant continental co-chair for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Creation of 7 thematic working groups (*details on page 11*)
- Launch of the work on continental roadmaps
- Pour La Solidarité and the SSE & Territories Chair at Sciences Po Bordeaux joined the GSEF
- Election of Bordeaux as host city for the next Global SSE Forum GSEF2025



## Bordeaux GSEF2025

Bordeaux's application to host the GSEF2025 Forum is the fruit of a four-way cooperation agreement between the **Nouvelle-Aquitaine region**, the **Gironde department**, **Bordeaux Métropole** and the **City of Bordeaux**. This agreement, the only one of its kind in France, also relies on the **CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine (Regional Chamber of SSE)** to develop actions within the framework of this partnership.

- Planned dates for the event: October 29 to 31, 2025
- Theme suggested at the General Assembly: "SSE as an asset for regional resilience"
- Co-construction of the Forum with local SSE, economic and cultural players
- Call for contributions to be issued to GSEF members in 2024
- Program of visits to SSE best-practice sites throughout the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region

#### ◆ Extraordinary General Assembly

*November 9, 2023, Videoconference*

- Review of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum
- Election of GSEF governance members for 2023-2025: Steering Committee, Continental Co-Chairs and GSEF Co-Chairs, as the last two-year term comes to an end (*governance details on next page*)

# GSEF Steering Committee Members

FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2025

## CITY & SSE NETWORK CO-PRESIDENTS OF GSEF



**CITY OF BORDEAUX  
(FRANCE)**



*Alternate :*  
**BORDEAUX MÉTROPOLE  
(FRANCE)**



**REGIONAL SSE CHAMBER OF  
NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE (FRANCE)**  
*representing ESS FRANCE*

## CONTINENTAL CO-PRESIDENTS OF GSEF

### NORTH AMERICA



**CITY OF MONTRÉAL  
(CANADA)**



**CHANTIER DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE  
(CANADA)**



**ASSOCIATION OF KOREAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY  
AND SOLIDARITY (KOREA)**

### AFRICA



**CITY OF DAKAR  
(SENEGAL)**



**NON-STATE ACTORS PLATFORM  
(SENEGAL)**

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF SOCIAL ECONOMY  
(MEXICO)**

### EUROPE



**NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE REGION  
(FRANCE)**



*Alternate :*  
**GIRONDE DEPARTMENT  
(FRANCE)**



**CONCERTES (BELGIUM)**

## OTHER STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**CITY OF BILBAO  
(SPAIN)**



**CITY OF BAMAKO  
(MALI)**



**THE ORIENTAL REGION  
(MOROCCO)**



**NETWORK OF CAMEROON  
MAYORS FOR  
SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY (CAMEROON)**



**SSE INTERNATIONAL  
FORUM**



**INTERCONTINENTAL  
NETWORK FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF SOCIAL  
AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY**



**PHARE PERFORMING  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE  
(CAMBODIA)**



**SPIRIT OF INITIATIVE  
NETWORK FOR THE  
SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY (MOROCCO)**



**CIVIC EDUCATION  
NETWORK (CONGO)**



**POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ (EUROPE)**



# GSEF Co-Presidents

## FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2025



### GSEF Co-Presidency



**CITY OF BORDEAUX**  
FRANCE  
*Mr Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux*

*alternate :*  
**BORDEAUX MÉTROPOLE**  
FRANCE  
*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 Me-Kyung Kim, President of SSEGOV and  
Mayor of Eunpyeong-gu - Seoul*

#### 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  
*Mr Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, Executive Director*

#### EUROPE

**NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE REGION**  
FRANCE  
*Mr Alain Rousset, President of the Region*

*alternate :*  
**GIRONDE DEPARTMENT**  
FRANCE  
*Mr Jean-Luc Gleyze, President of the Department*

**CONCERTES**  
BELGIUM  
*Ms Bénédicte Sohet, Secretary General*

## 4 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The **GSEF Steering Committee** met on four occasions during the year by videoconference with simultaneous English-French translation.

• January 19 • April 20 • June 26 • September 26

The Steering Committee is composed of 20 GSEF members elected for two years, including the 2 GSEF Co-Chairs and the 8 Continental Co-Chairs. Members represent local governments and SSE organizations in equal proportions.

## 5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The **Advisory Committee** is a discussion and proposal body designed to support the General Secretariat in its work. It is made up of founding members and SSE experts from the five continents. Its mandate was enshrined in the GSEF Charter following the Extraordinary General Assembly of 24 March 2023 in order to formalize its role vis-à-vis all the organization's stakeholders. The Committee met five times in 2023.

• January 17 • March 9 • June 13 • September 28 • December 14

### Composition of the GSEF Advisory Committee



**Thierry Jeantet**  
*Honorary Chair of SSE International Forum  
France*



**Rev. Kyong Yong Song**  
*President of SVS Fund  
Korea*



**Nancy Neamtan**  
*Founder of the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale  
Quebec, Canada*



**Peru Manuel Sasia Santos**  
*President of FEBEA  
Basque Country, Spain*



**Marguerite Mendell**  
*Distinguished Professor Emerita, School of  
Community and Public Affairs and Director, Karl  
Polanyi Institute of Political Economy  
Professor, Concordia University  
Quebec, Canada*



**Dominique Lesaffre**  
*Solidarity finance advisor  
France*

### New members in 2023



**Denise Fatoumata Ndour**  
*President of INAISE, Director of Sen'Finances  
Senegal*



**Leandro Morais**  
*Professor, University of São Paulo  
Brazil*



**Miguel Angel Beretta Cisneros**  
*Professor, National Principal University  
of San Marcos, Peru*



**Laurence Kwark**  
*Former Secretary General of GSEF  
Korea*



## THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

The General Assembly on May 5 2023 voted to set up **7 thematic working groups**, co-piloted by GSEF members, to provide platforms for cooperation and experience-sharing between GSEF members and beyond.

### The GSEF's SSE Youth Hub

It has three objectives, which are being pursued by its co-pilots on every continent:

1. **Awareness:** raise young people's awareness of SSE values and issues: strengthen the Youth & SSE community
2. **Advocacy:** develop international, national and local advocacy on the role of youth
3. **Support:** build a platform for exchanges on best practices in supporting youth entrepreneurship: youth co-operatives, youth accompaniment and incubation.

Co-piloted by :

- POJeT - Toulépleu Youth Organization Platform (Ivory Coast)
- INAES - National Institute of Social Economy (Mexico)
- Chantier de l'Économie Sociale - Youth Wing (Quebec, Canada)
- Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region (France)

SSE Youth Hub  
... Gsef ...

### The impact of SSE public policies on the achievement of SDGs - Research



Develop research on a comparative approach to the role of local SSE policies in the socioecological transition, to feed GSEF's advocacy, training and accompaniment offer.

*Co-piloted by Marguerite Mendell (Karl Polanyi Institute, Quebec) and Timothée Duverger (Chair Terr'ESS, France)*

### Towards strengthened cooperation - International SSE ecosystem



The GSEF is positioned as a key player in the convergence and mutualization of the strengths of the international ecosystem, and opens the way for reflection on partnership strategies between SSE networks.

*Co-piloted by GSEF and SSE International Forum*

### Circular economy



The group's work will be launched in summer 2024.

*Co-piloted by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and the City of Bordeaux (France)*

### Responsible public procurement



With the aim of making public procurement a driving force for the sustainable development of territories and an economic lever for the SSE, the GSEF intends to reference and promote responsible public purchasing initiatives.

*Co-piloted by CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine (France) and REMCESS (Cameroon)*

### Funding SSE



Identify, promote and disseminate the challenges of blended public-private-SSE financing.

*Co-piloted by INAISE and SVS Fund (South Korea)*

### SSE and Housing



The group's work will be launched in summer 2024.

*Co-piloted by the City of Bordeaux, the Gironde Department (France), Chantier de l'Économie Sociale (Quebec, Canada) and SVS Fund (Korea)*



## Advocacy

Since its creation, the GSEF has been promoting the values and potential of the SSE on a global scale. Through its international advocacy work, the GSEF has contributed to the historic momentum for recognition of the SSE at international level.

The GSEF has continued to advocate for ambitious public policies with states and local governments, and will continue to support the development of ecosystems supportive of the SSE worldwide.

We must continue to demonstrate that the SSE is a tool for democracy in the development of territories, at the heart of responses to social needs for protection and the fight against exclusion and poverty, and that it can generate sustainable capacities for cooperation and organization of transitions for citizens, anchored in territories and driven by civil society.

### The GSEF maintains its influence and collaboration with international institutions and organizations.

The GSEF has been working for years with numerous international, regional and national SSE networks and international organizations such as the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), to promote international recognition of the SSE.



International  
Labour  
Organization



UN

Inter-Agency Task Force on  
Social and Solidarity Economy

Since 2017, **the GSEF is an active observer member of UNTFSE**, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, and participates in all the group's meetings (every 2 months by videoconference). In November 2023, the Task Force had 17 members (UN agencies + OECD) and 13 observers.

As a reminder, the UNTFSE was created in 2013 in response to a growing concern within the UN system to rethink development in the wake of multiple global crises and in the context of post-2015 development and the 2030 Agenda of the SDGs.

The UNTFSE aims to raise the profile of the Social and Solidarity Economy within the United Nations system and beyond. Task Force members and observers are committed to undertaking collaborative activities to:

- Strengthen recognition of the role of SSE enterprises and organizations in sustainable development;
- Promote awareness of the SSE and consolidate SSE networks;
- Support the creation of an institutional and political environment favorable to SSE;
- Coordinate international efforts, and create and strengthen partnerships.





## **The United Nations General Assembly adopts a resolution recognizing the role of the SSE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**

After years of continuous research and advocacy by the UNTFSSSE, on April 18, 2023 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development” (A/77/L.60). The governments of Chile, Senegal and Spain co-led this effort, with the support of the French government.

The resolution provides an official definition of the SSE (adopted from the ILC resolution) and recognizes that it can contribute to the achievement and localization of sustainable development goals.

There have also been several regional developments in SSE, including the European Union’s action plan on the Social Economy, launched in 2021, and the African Union’s expected ten-year strategy for SSE.

The April 18, 2023 resolution stems from a momentum created in 2022, with the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the Resolution on Decent Work and the SSE at its 110th session in June; the ECOSOC/HLPF side event on the role of the SSE in achieving the SDGs in July; the OECD Council Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation in October, and the multi-stakeholder event: “How can international recognition of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) contribute to achieving the SDGs through social and inclusive innovation?” in December.

### **Examples of close GSEF/UNTFSSSE collaboration in 2023:**

- The GSEF President and the GSEF Secretary General have been participating in face-to-face awareness-raising sessions organized by the Spanish government and then by the French government at UN headquarters since 2022, to support the adoption of the resolution by member states.
- The Dakar GSEF2023 Forum was the first major international SSE event following the adoption of the UN Resolution. This is the context in which the Dakar Forum opened, with a political plenary moderated by the UNTFSSSE President Chantal-Line Carpentier: this panel of Ministers brought together Senegal’s Minister of Microfinance and SSE, Côte d’Ivoire’s Minister of Solidarity, and Spain’s Minister of Labor and SSE, among others, who called on their states to pursue their commitment to building public policies and promoting the UN Resolution towards other governments.
- The final political plenary session of the Dakar Forum brought together international institutions. They were able to detail the respective policy recommendations adopted that enabled this SSE Momentum in 2022 and 2023.
- The GSEF took part in the Symposium organized by the Task Force in Montreal in October 2023, to draft the new action plan for the implementation of the UN resolution adopted in April 2023.





### The International Coalition of the Social and Solidarity Economy

In 2023, the GSEF took over from SSE International Forum as the rotating secretariat of the International Coalition of the Social and Solidarity Economy (ICSSE).

In 2021, the GSEF joined forces with 4 other global SSE networks (AIM, ICA, ESSFI, ICMIF) to deepen its advocacy efforts within the Coalition, to represent SSE actors in international debates.

The Coalition met for five regular meetings in 2023.



### Strengthen advocacy within local government platforms

The GSEF continued to advocate to networks of cities and local governments for the SSE to become a priority in public action plans and local policies. To this end, the GSEF is reinvesting spaces for reflection and exchange between local governments on transitions and local economic development.

In 2023, the GSEF relaunched its collaboration with FAMSI, which is organizing the 6th World Forum on Local Economic Development (WFLED) for the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) network in Seville in early 2025. The GSEF is a member of the Forum's organizing committee.

The GSEF has renewed its support for a community of practices within the UCLG. Indeed, the City of Bordeaux (Céline Papin, deputy in charge of International Relations) is an elected member of the global secretariat and has applied to host this SSE community of practices in Daejeon in October 2022, through its presidency of the GSEF. The priority for 2024 will be to relaunch this group.

The GSEF has established a brand image in promoting and supporting the development of local or regional ecosystems with the aim of further developing the global strategy of the SSE. The GSEF's added value, compared with other networks, is its emphasis on and understanding of the need for partnership and ongoing dialogue between civil society and local governments, and for an ecosystem approach.

Panels of mayors and other local governments are organized at each GSEF Global Forum. This political highlight is an eagerly awaited moment when elected representatives demonstrate their commitment to supporting the development of the SSE.



**JANUARY 22-28**



Forum

**Dakar, Senegal**

## Preparation visit for the DakarGSEF2023 Forum

The GSEF Secretariat team kicked off the year with a visit to Dakar, where they were welcomed by representatives of RACTES and the City of Dakar, co-organizers of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum with the Ministry of Microfinance and SSE.

On the agenda: a tour of the sites that will host the Forum in May, meetings of the various organizing commissions and discussions with the Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal and the Women's Day for SSE organizing committee.

A press conference was held to mobilize Dakar and Senegalese media and stakeholders.

[Read the press release](#)

**APRIL 5**



Forum

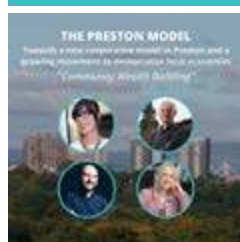
**Dakar, Senegal**

## 2nd Meeting of the DakarGSEF2023 Piloting Committee

The GSEF General Secretary first travelled to Madrid to meet Aicha Belassir, Executive Secretary of RIPESS Intercontinental, and Víctor Meseguer Sánchez, Spain's Special Commissioner for the Social Economy.

This was followed in Dakar by meetings of each of the Forum's organizing commissions, and the second meeting of the event's Piloting Committee, chaired by Victorine Ndeye, Senegal's Minister of Microfinance and SSE, alongside Barthélémy Dias, Mayor of Dakar.

**APRIL 12**



Europe Research WG

**Webinar**

## The Preston Model - Towards a new cooperative model in Preston and a growing movement to democratize local economies

This webinar marked the first activity of the GSEF working group dedicated to the impact of SSE public policies. Four guests shared their experiences:

- Matthew Brown, *Senior Fellow for the Promotion of Community Wealth Building and Leader of Preston City Council*
- Sarah McKinley, *Director of Community Wealth Building Programs at The Democracy Collaborative*
- Marguerite Mendell, *Economist, co-founder of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, co-founder of GSEF*
- Timothée Duverger, *Research engineer at Sciences Po Bordeaux, head of the Chair Terr'ESS and research associate at the Centre Emile Durkheim*

**APRIL 18**



Advocacy

**New-York, USA**

## The United Nations General Assembly adopts the resolution recognizing the role of the SSE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Aude Saldana, GSEF Secretary General, attended the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution A/77/L.60 recognizing the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

A major milestone in the advocacy efforts of co-sponsor countries, the UNTFSS and networks such as the GSEF.

[Read the resolution](#)

**APRIL 19**



Advocacy

**Paris, France**

## Inter-network press conference: the United Nations recognize the role of the SSE

The GSEF invited SSE International Forum, Social Economy Europe and ESS France to hold an inter-network press conference the day after the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution on the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Our international and national networks joined forces to acknowledge the advocacy work carried out over almost 10 years to secure the adoption of the resolution, which recognizes the essential role of the SSE in achieving a more inclusive, fair and sustainable form of development.

[Watch the replay](#) • [Read the press release](#)

# One year of GSEF

MAY 1-6



Forum

**Dakar, Senegal**

## DakarGSEF2023: the 6th edition of the GSEF Global SSE Forum

Dakar hosted the 2023 edition of the GSEF Global SSE Forum, co-organized by the City of Dakar, RACTES, GSEF and Senegal's Ministry of Microfinance and SSE.

The event took place over 6 days, a first for a GSEF Forum. The Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, the Women's Day for SSE and the Main Forum attracted a total of 6,000 participants from all over the world, with a strong Senegalese and African mobilization. The Dakar Declaration was read out at the closing plenary session.

*For a full report on the Forum, see page 26*

[Discover the Dakar Declaration](#) • [Watch the Forum Film](#) • [Read the Forum Proceedings](#)

MAY 5



Forum

**Dakar, Senegal**

## Bordeaux elected as host city for the GSEF2025 Forum by GSEF members

Meeting in their General Assembly at the Dakar City Hall on the penultimate day of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum, GSEF members voted in favor of Bordeaux hosting the 7th edition of the Global SSE Forum.

The event will be co-organized by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Gironde Department, Bordeaux Métropole, the City of Bordeaux and CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

The official announcement was made at the closing ceremony of the Forum, where Mr. Barthélémy Dias, Mayor of Dakar, passed the torch to Mr. Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux and President of the GSEF.

MAY 15



Advocacy

**Manifesto**

## Signature of the call for SSE players to join forces, published in Alternatives Economiques (France)

Manifesto for a united, articulate and conquering SSE!

"We believe that by acting together, with clear identities, the SSE can become the standard for tomorrow's economy, and thus contribute to the necessary systemic changes".

[Read the Manifesto](#)

JULY 4-6



Research WG

**Seoul, Korea**

## CIRIEC International Research Conference on the Social Economy

The GSEF was represented by Timothée Duverger from the Chair SSE & Territories, a member of the GSEF.

The 2025 edition of the CIRIEC conferences will be held in Bordeaux from October 27 to 29, ahead of the #BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum!

An opportunity for GSEF and CIRIEC to strengthen fruitful collaborations and mutually inspire participants at both events.

[More information on CIRIEC](#)

AUGUST 31



Youth & SSE LAC

**Webinar**

## Slam Cooperativo on the theme of youth and cooperation in the SSE

Organized by INAES, GSEF Continental Co-Chair for Latin America and the Caribbean, the event attracted over 200 online participants.

[More information on INAES](#)

SEPTEMBER 12



Advocacy Europe

*Strasbourg, France*

### Meeting of the Social Economy Intergroup of the Council of the European Union

Members gathered to discuss the Council of the European Union's proposal for a recommendation on the SSE at two round tables. The GSEF took part in a round table: "The recommendation seen from the local level and the SSE ecosystem", alongside ESS France, Social Economy Europe and the Eurometropole of Strasbourg.

[Read the recommendation of the Council of the European Union](#)

SEPTEMBER 18-19



Advocacy

*Paris, France*

### 14th edition of the International Action of Local Authorities meeting by Cités Unies France

The theme of the event was "What contribution can local and regional authorities make to resolving major global issues?"

The GSEF took part in a workshop entitled "International action in support of economic development and the attractiveness of our territories. How can a local authority's international cooperation foster economic development here and elsewhere?"

Aude Saldana argued that these decentralized international cooperations involving local authorities must be organized around the achievement of the SDGs so as to encourage the emergence of solid ecosystems of SSE players whose role in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development has been recognized.

OCTOBER 3



North America

Advocacy

*Montréal, Canada*

### 4th UNTFSSSE Technical Symposium - United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the SSE

The GSEF was present in Montreal, one of its co-founding cities, to participate in the definition of the action plan for the implementation of the United Nations resolution on the SSE adopted on April 18, 2023.

The GSEF Secretary General stressed the crucial role of municipalities and local governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the resolution.

A working session with the City of Montreal and Chantier de l'Économie Sociale, GSEF's Continental Co-Chairs for North America, enabled progress to be made on GSEF's continental strategy in the region.

OCTOBER 10



Asia

*Seoul, Korea*

### 14th Asia Future Forum: "The era of polycrisis: a path to coexistence"

SSEGOV, GSEF Continental Co-Chair for Asia moderated a GSEF Asia Policy Dialogue, in collaboration with the GSEF General Secretary. GSEF members from Korea, Cambodia and Malaysia shared their SSE experiences in their territories. They reaffirmed the relevance of SSE in meeting the challenges of inclusive and sustainable development, and of collaboration between local governments and SSE players.

OCTOBER 16-20



Finance WG Africa

*Lomé, Togo*

### African Microfinance Week: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Finance

As part of the launch of the GSEF working group on SSE and Finance, Denise Fatoumata Ndour, President of INAISE, and Dominique Lesaffre, co-pilots of the working group, accompanied by Enora Bizot from the GSEF general secretariat, took part in the African Microfinance Week in Lomé, Togo.

On the agenda: conferences and an innovation village to examine the role of inclusive finance, particularly in the face of climate change. These financing methods must support SSE initiatives, which are essential stakeholders in localizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



# One year of GSEF

OCTOBER 17-18



*Seville, Spain*

## Preparations for the 6th UCLG World Forum on Local Economic Development

The 6th World Forum on Local Economic Development will be organized in 2025 by FAMSÍ for UCLG, with the support of ILO, ORU-Fogar and UNDP. The GSEF has been invited to take part in the preparatory work for the event.

Fabienne Oré-Courregelongue, Deputy Director of Economic Development and SSE at Bordeaux Métropole / City of Bordeaux (co-chair of the GSEF) and Aude Saldana took part in round-table discussions, recalling the crucial role played by the SSE in the creation of decent jobs, particularly in the transition of jobs from informal economies to valued collective economies.

OCTOBER 20



Forum

*Bordeaux, France*

## From DakarGSEF2023 to BordeauxGSEF2025: a day of feedback

Actors from the SSE and international solidarity sectors met in Bordeaux for a day of debriefing and exchange around the GSEF Global SSE Forum. On the agenda: feedback on the Dakar Forum, and workshops to draw lessons from the GSEF2023 Dakar Declaration.

This event was organized with GSEF partners: So Coopération, CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, IFAID Aquitaine and the SSE & Territories Chair.

[Watch the replay](#)

NOVEMBER 5-10



Africa

Support

*Ivory Coast*

## GSEF Visit to Ivory Coast

A GSEF team was in Abidjan for the 6th National Partnership Day organized by the Comité de Concertation État Secteur Privé. This was an opportunity to promote the values and principles of the SSE to key players: UEMOA, the African Development Bank, and the Ivorian Ministries of Finance and the Budget, Solidarity and the Fight against Poverty, Trade and Industry, and the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition.

Stéphane Pfeiffer, deputy mayor of Bordeaux, co-president of the GSEF, stressed the importance of involving SSE players in building local economic dynamics.

Fabrice Adelphé Balou, co-pilot of GSEF's SSE Youth Hub, presented Abewe, a digital platform designed to connect buyers with SSE producers.

Aude Saldana and Timothée Duverger highlighted the relevance of the RTE ("Territorial Corporate Responsibility") approach to the current development of regional economic clusters in Ivory Coast.

Two key meetings as part of the development of GSEF's operational activities:

- The Assembly of Regions and Districts of Ivory Coast (ARDCI), GSEF partner: meeting with its president Eugène Aouélé Aka, president of the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council of Ivory Coast. Discussions focused on a future collaboration targeting support for youth entrepreneurship and capacity-building for elected representatives and technicians in the field of SSE
- The CCESP: work session devoted to the support that the GSEF could offer to the stimulation (and the SSEization!) of Ivory Coast's regional economic hubs.

Teams from the Sud-Comoé Regional Council then welcomed the GSEF near Grand-Bassam to visit several SSE projects.

NOVEMBER 14-16



Advocacy

Europe

*San Sebastián, Spain*

## SSE Conference of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux and President of the GSEF, accompanied by Stéphane Pfeiffer, took part in two plenary sessions on the "Social Economy and New Urban Agenda", demonstrating that the SSE can bring about profound socioeconomic and environmental changes, particularly for the city of Bordeaux.

The GSEF was also represented by its co-president Stéphane Montuzet, its General Secretary Aude Saldana, and its continental European co-presidents: Maud CARUHEL, Vice-President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region in charge of the SSE and the Circular Economy, and Bénédicte Sohet, General Secretary of ConcertES.



NOVEMBER 23-24



Advocacy Europe

*Brussels, Belgium*

### Strategy City Lab - Intelligent Cities Challenge

The GSEF was in Brussels for the Strategy Conference organized as part of the European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge, which brings together around 100 European cities. The aim: to give cities their rightful place in pursuing the objectives of the European Green Deal through Local Green Deals.

Aude Saldana, Secretary General of the GSEF, reaffirmed that the transversal perspective offered by SSE players makes it possible to tackle the various aspects of the ecological and digital transition at local level in an inclusive and democratic way.

DECEMBER 12



Africa

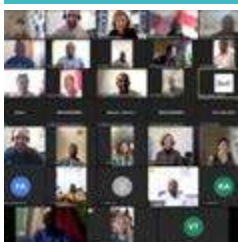
*Yaoundé, Cameroon*

### Preparatory meeting for the African SSE Forum, FORA'ESS

During the DakarGSEF2023 Forum, SSE stakeholders from various African countries, boosted by the women's movement in Cameroon, launched a dynamic around the organization of an African SSE Forum. FORA'ESS will be held in May 2024 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Mr. Malick Diop, Coordinator of the Senegalese Non-State Actors Platform and GSEF Continental Co-Chair for Africa, was received by Mr. Achille Bassilekin, Cameroon's Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, as part of the FORA'ESS preparatory mission. This working meeting brought together the FORA'ESS coordinator, Ms Pauline Effa of PFAC, the President of the Local Organizing Committee, Ms Léontine Evina of the Cameroon National SSE Network, Ms Monique Ayi, the President of the Cameroon Mayors' SSE Network (REMCESS), which is an active member of the GSEF, the President of the FORA'ESS Scientific Committee, Pr Sambou Ndiaye, and the executive secretariat of the Pan-African Cooperative Conference.

[More information](#)

DECEMBER 12



Youth & SSE Africa

*Webinar*

### SSE Training sessions - Youth & SSE African Focal points

Since early 2023, the GSEF has been coordinating a group of 11 focal points. In December 2023, GSEF conducted two online training sessions for these focal points. In Africa, the GSEF's SSE Youth Hub is active and already comprises the organizations that took part in the DakarGSEF2023 Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, as well as the SSE Caravans. Indeed, in preparation for the Dakar Forum, the focal points of 11 West and Central African countries were mobilized to organize the participation of young people from their countries in the Forum.

The GSEF is participating in the events they are organizing in their respective countries, particularly in terms of structuring their advocacy and their networks of youth and SSE players.

DECEMBER 18



Research WG

*Call for papers*

### Launch of the GSEF Research group's call for papers

The GSEF research group on the impact of SSE public policies has launched a call for papers on the theme of "Local SSE public policies for sustainable development".

The final work will be presented in spring 2025, in the form of working papers, and will be the subject of a publication and a thematic perspective at the next GSEF2025 Forum in Bordeaux in October 2025.

[See the call for papers](#)

DECEMBER 21



Forum

*Publication*

### Launch of the Film and Proceedings of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum

The GSEF concludes the year with the publication of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum Capitalization Film, which retraces the 6-day event and showcases the highlights: the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, the Women's Day for SSE, the political and thematic plenaries, the Dakar Declaration, as well as the workshops and self-organized sessions.

The Forum Proceedings, which summarize the scientific content of the event, were created by the GSEF General Secretariat in 2023, and were published in early 2024 as part of a social media campaign.

[Forum Film](#) • [The Forum Proceedings](#)

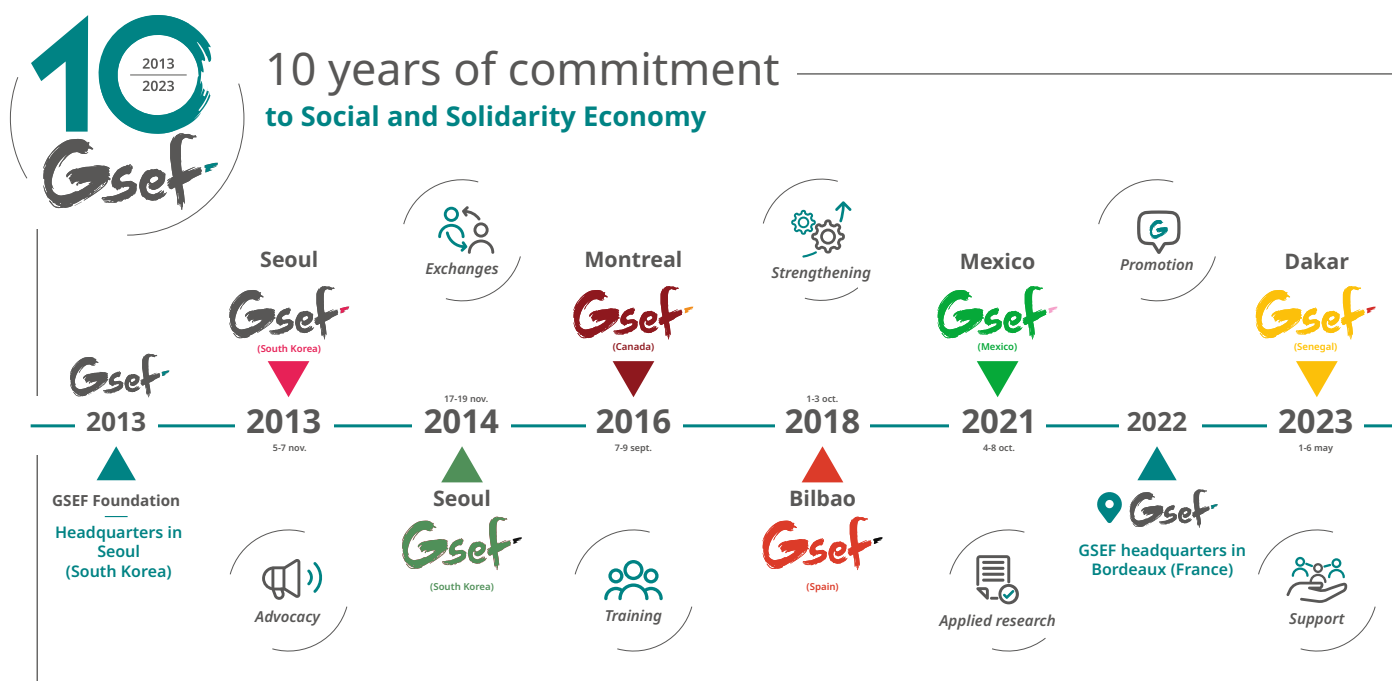


## 10 years of GSEF

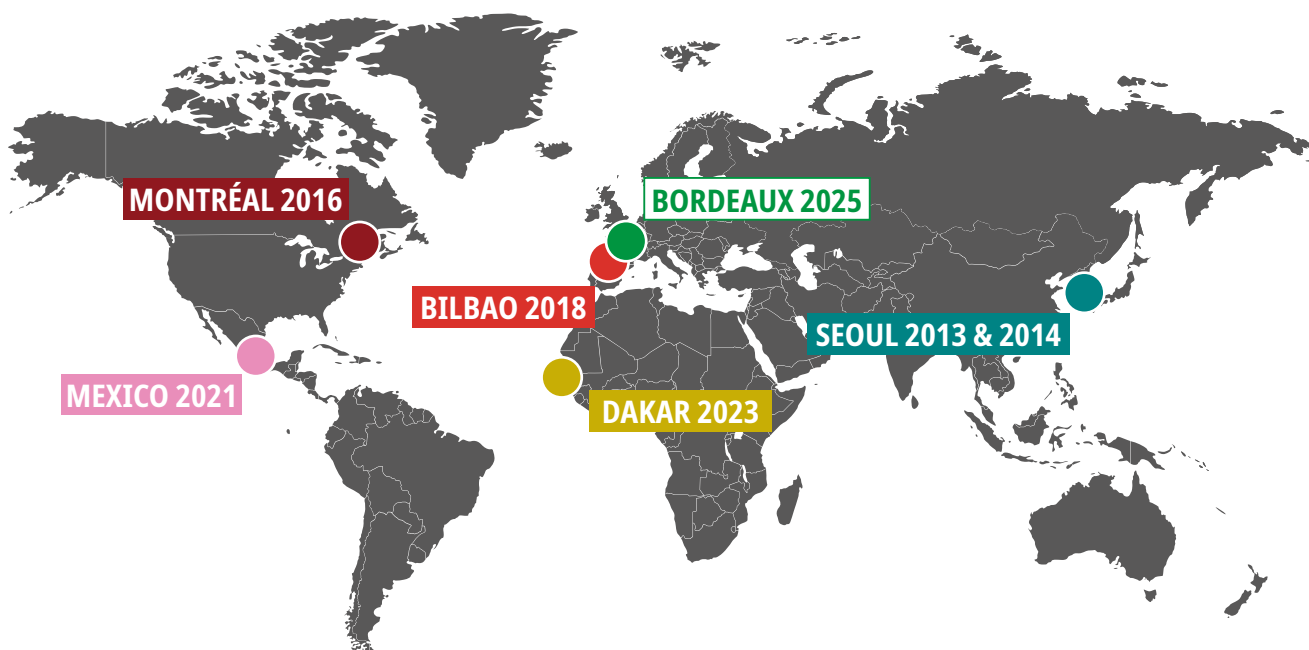
Since its creation in 2013 in Seoul, the GSEF has found its place in international ecosystems, and has strongly contributed through its advocacy efforts to the international recognition of the SSE by the most multilateral institutions, up to the 2022-2023 momentum with the OECD recommendation, the ILC universal definition, and the United Nations General Assembly resolution.

The GSEF's Global SSE Forum, celebrated six times, has become a must-attend event for actors and governments committed to SSE around the world.

We've come a long way since the GSEF was founded - 10 years during which many political figures, academics and other SSE players have come to contribute to the GSEF, and reinforce the vitality of this community that couldn't exist without their commitment. Many thanks to them all!



*The GSEF's Global SSE Forums are held every two years.*



## Founders and Key contributors of GSEF



### Rev. Kyong Yong Song

First Co-Chair of GSEF

Rev. Kyong Yong Song was the Chairperson of the GSEF2013 organizing committee and became the first co-chair of GSEF in 2014. Until he passed his position to his successor in 2018, he carried out his role as a representative of SSE actors by collaborating with the Seoul Metropolitan Government.



### Mr. Won-soon Park

First Co-Chair of GSEF, Former Mayor of Seoul

Mr. Won-soon Park, former mayor of Seoul, was the host of the first Global Social Economy Forum in 2013 and first chairperson of GSEF from 2014 to 2020. Collaborating with social economy actors in Korea, he led the development of GSEF to a significant international network promoting SSE with heart and dedication.



### Prof. Marguerite Mendell

Distinguished Professor Emerita, School of Community and Public Affairs and Director, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Concordia University Professeur

Marguerite Mendell is an economist and has published widely on the social and solidarity economy in Quebec and internationally. As an Honorary Member and Member of the Advisory Committee of GSEF, she has actively participated in GSEF over the last ten years as an engaged and dedicated researcher. She is an Officer of the Order of Quebec and a Member of the Order of Canada.



### Ms. Nancy Neamtan

Founder and former Executive Director of the Chantier de l'économie sociale (Canada)

Nancy Neamtan was a founder of the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale and its Executive Director from 1996 to 2015. She spearheaded the creation of new financial tools for collective enterprises (RISQ and the Chantier Trust), co-chaired the Social Economy Community–University Research Partnership from 2001 to 2011 and was founding Co-President of TIESS, a social innovation liaison and knowledge transfer centre. She participated actively in creating and leading international SSE networks.



### Ms. Laurence Kwark

Former Secretary General of GSEF

From 2016 to 2022, she led the GSEF's remarkable development as a significant international network of SSE with her passion and dedication.

*GSEF is a collective journey! Many more people have been involved in the organization over the years, contributing to its network dynamics, its influence and its international recognition.*

## A look back at the GSEF Forums

# Gsef

**2013-2014**  
**Seoul**



**November 7, 2013**

### **Global Social Economy Network : Toward Convergence across the world**

[...] The current challenge facing mankind cannot be resolved by any one country. This is the primary reason why we seek global solidarity for dealing with such issues. A multilateral international network must lay the foundations of global social economic solidarity that encompasses regional communities and countries.

The 2013 Global Social Economy Forum is a venue for sharing ideas and experiences, a place to actively collaborate on envisioning a new social economy paradigm for the future among key counterparts throughout the world. This is a special opportunity for world communities to support the growth of social economy movement to envisage a new agenda for the future. [...]

#### **Resolutions**

1. Each local government will promote public-private-community partnership to build a sustainable social economy network and emphasize cooperation for exchange between principal social economy agents in each community.
2. Each of us recognizes the importance of growing citizen empowerment and supporting diverse and widespread community leadership of the social economy.
3. Each of us will engage to raise awareness of the social economy and develop appropriate learning programs for different target groups and mutually share their outcomes.
4. Each of us will share our experiences and visions in order to lead in social innovation and actively operates a social-economy exchange program to foster human resources. [...]

In order to lay the groundwork for setting up a global advisory group, the provisional secretariat will be temporarily located and hold a general meeting in Seoul 2014. All participants wishing to take part in the group should collaborate on establishing a specific action plan with the aim of electing a host city and promoting the project at the 2014 general meeting.

***Extracts from the Seoul Declaration***

**[Read the GSEF2013 Seoul Declaration](#)**



2016  
Montréal

Montréal



Gsef



September 9, 2016

[...] We, the 1500 people from 330 cities in 62 countries, participants at the 2016 Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF2016) in Montreal, strongly reaffirm that more intelligent, equitable and sustainable cities are possible and that an economic development model that places people at the center of economic, social and political activity exists. We call this the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

The SSE seeks to integrate economic efficiency, social inclusion, sustainable development and increased participation in the functioning of the economy and urban development. [...]

### **Besides the State there are cities, local authorities and collective action**

[...] The contributions of municipalities, towns and local authorities are also essential, all the more so because governments and regional authorities are closest to its inhabitants and help promote a vibrant democracy and recognize the right to the city.

Facing these challenges also requires governance that requires the active participation of all stakeholders, supported by researchers, to reinforce the expertise and capacity of local governments to better serve the needs and aspirations of communities. We share the conviction that the SSE contributes to the elaboration of a new development model by changing our ways of thinking and acting.

### **Resolutions**

1. Recognize the central role of SSE organizations to overcome the current challenges and to promote a renewed participatory democracy.
2. Multiply participatory governance spaces.
3. Build an inclusive movement for all men and women of all ages and origins.
4. Build public-private-community partnerships to meet the needs and aspirations of our communities.
5. Share our visions, experiences and achievements to promote social innovation, including through CITIES, a strategic partner of GSEF.
6. Recognize and support youth as important actors for the future of the SSE movement.

*Extracts from the Montreal Declaration*

[Read the GSEF2016 Montreal Declaration](#)



## A look back at the GSEF Forums

# Gsef

2018  
Bilbao



**B**  
Bilbao

**B** Bilbao Ekintza

**October 3, 2018**

We, the 1700 individuals from 84 countries, participants of the 2018 Global Social Economy Forum – GSEF2018 in Bilbao – strongly affirm that economic development serving both people and planet, leaving no one behind, is rooted in principles of democracy, social justice, solidarity, diversity and peace.

[...] We acknowledge the importance of localizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The contribution of the SE and SSE to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient society is increasingly recognized by UN agencies, governments and civil society as fundamental to achieve these goals. [...]

### **Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development**

SE and SSE enterprises and organizations are viable, efficient, and generate social value and economic returns. Their competitiveness lies in the social impact generated by their activity, with economic returns reinvested into the community or the organization itself, enabling their ongoing capacity to accomplish their mission.

Locally situated, they must be mindful of the environmental impact of their activities and adjust accordingly. SE and SSE enterprises promote and create decent work embedded in values of social justice and respect labour rights. Sovereignty and transparency are more present in their supply chains, delivering goods and services based on the needs of the community they serve. Democratic governance and management practices are at the core of their raison d'être. [...]

### **Resolutions**

- Continue the co-construction and co-development of public policies and affirm the central role that each of us plays in overcoming the main challenges faced by our cities and communities. [...]
- Advocate member states to call for a UN resolution on Social and Solidarity Economy. [...]
- Further collaborate in the development of linkages between territories (both urban and rural) and work towards greater policy coherence at all levels of government (local, regional, national, international). [...]
- Improve environmental practices to become more transparent in production-consumption circuits in order to generate a necessary ecological and just transition.

***Extracts from the Bilbao Declaration***

**[Read the GSEF2018 Bilbao Declaration](#)**

## 2021 Mexico



**INAES**  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL  
DE LA ECONOMÍA SOCIAL

# Gsef



**October 8, 2021**

[...] The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 made it impossible to convene GSEF2020 in Mexico City. However, a highly successful GSEF Global Virtual Forum was held with 8,500 participants from 19 to 23 October 2020. Today on the last day of the 5th edition, organized in a hybrid format due to the ongoing crisis, we issue this declaration to express the shared commitment of all participants from across the planet, with significant contributions from Mexico and the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region. [...]

[...] SSE is currently playing a critical role in addressing and mitigating the short and long-term impacts of COVID-19 and may thus significantly contribute to a paradigm change. Not only has SSE shown its extraordinary resilience as existing collective enterprises and organizations ramp up their activities, but these experiences are also inspiring and spawning new initiatives in all sectors, notably in vital proximity health and social services including daycare, homecare for the elderly, and collective health care provision, in many parts of the world, strengthening public services and complementing government action. [...]

### **We call on all governments and international and regional organizations to:**

- [...] Foster the fundamental values of humanity and social inclusion in all aspects of life, including gender equity, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, and dignity.
- Increase the participation of young people in positioning SSE as a means to face the current health, socioeconomic and environmental crisis.
- Promote the development and adoption of co-constructed regulatory and legislative frameworks, and enable public policies at the local level in favor of SSE to strengthen its ecosystems.
- Collaborate and coordinate with national, regional and local governments. All stakeholders – citizens, SSE networks and organizations – must participate in this process.
- Support decentralized cooperation in order to enhance the local anchoring of SSE

### **We specifically call on local governments to:**

- Adopt a local development approach embracing the principles and values of SSE.
- [...] Strengthen the development of local and regional ecosystems by promoting innovative partnerships between actors of the traditional and/or informal economy, SSE actors and local governments. [...]

*Extracts from the Mexico Declaration*

[Read the GSEF2021 Mexico Declaration](#)



GLOBAL SOCIAL  
AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY FORUM

1 - 6 May 2023

6<sup>th</sup>  
edition



## The transition from 'informal' economies to collective and sustainable economies for our territories

As stated in its founding charter, the GSEF invites its member cities to apply to host the Global Forum every two years. The members of the Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee and all GSEF members join the General Secretariat in thanking the City of Dakar, RACTES and the Senegalese Ministry of Microfinance and SSE, as well as the Senegalese Youth Consortium, for the success of this sixth GSEF Global Forum. After the relocation of the organization's headquarters to Bordeaux, and 10 years after its creation, the success of the Dakar GSEF2023 Forum is a powerful symbol for our organization.

### Two main objectives:

- **A first political objective:** the Forum brought together ministers, mayors, elected representatives and leaders from all over the world, international experts and development agencies who are committed to promoting an economy centered on people and respect for the environment, an essential tool for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- **The second objective focused on exchanges of experience and expertise** from all continents. They highlighted successful innovations by local governments and all those involved in the SSE, focusing on seven themes and challenges.

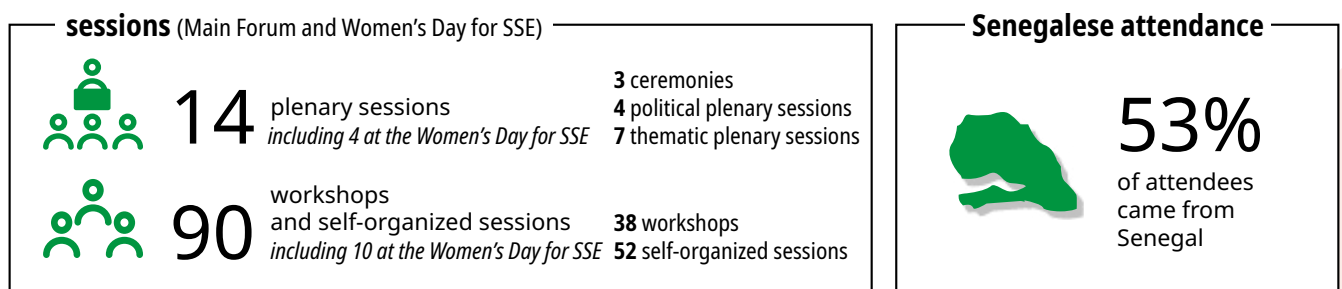
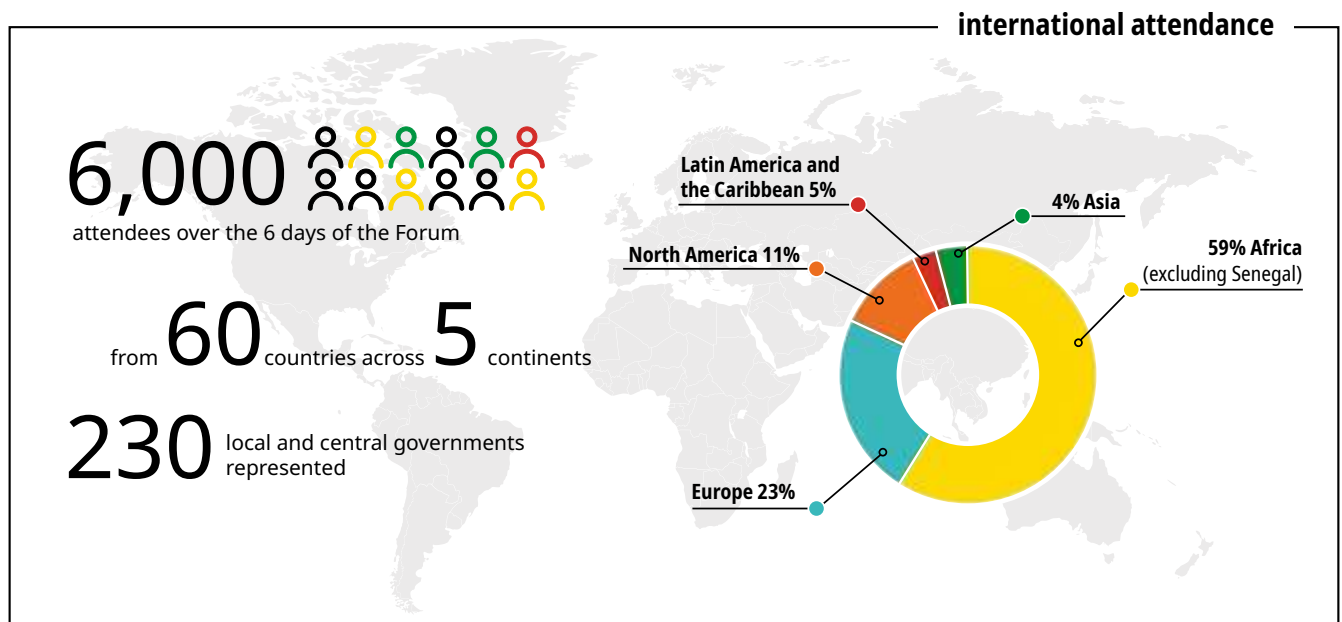
### Timeline







The GSEF2023 Global Forum was a crossroads for human encounters, for people who are convinced of the need to share experience and to promote the practices being tried out in their territories. The added value and the outcome of the Forum lie in the creation of bonds and relationships between people from every continent. The 6,000 participants attending the Dakar GSEF2023 Forum demonstrated the strength of the proposals put forward by the global SSE ecosystem, from academics to international institutions, from agricultural cooperatives to women's groups, from mutual benefit societies to social enterprises, from elected representatives to young people... These actors in social and environmental transitions pooled their experiences and energies.



**A total of 8 plenary sessions, including 3 political sessions, were held at the start of each day of the main Forum at the Grand Théâtre National.**

- *The panel of ministers*, led by Senegal's Minister of Microfinance and SSE and Ivory Coast's Minister of Solidarity, called on their governments to continue their commitment to building public policies and promoting the United Nations resolution with their counterparts in other governments.
- *The various mayors and representatives of municipalities gathered around two round tables* were able to present their proposals for the development of the SSE in their territories.
- *The international institutions* discussed the political recommendations that were adopted to make this 2022 and 2023 SSE Momentum possible.

### Special events

The organizers took up the challenge of organizing a 6-day event. The main Forum was preceded by two special events, in which young people from the **SSE Caravans** took part.

## Youth and SSE Pre-Forum



The **Youth and SSE Pre-Forum** was a new addition to the GSEF Forums: 2 days organized by the young people of the **Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal**, with the aim of highlighting youth SSE initiatives around the world and encouraging dialogue between them, as well as co-constructing a plea, the **Call of the Youth**.

The **SDG Village (Sustainable Development Goals)** enabled 56 exhibitors from 12 countries to present their experiences and demonstrate the essential role of young people in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development through the SSE.

The unprecedented participation of young people at the Forum demonstrated the driving role of youth in sustainable development. Young women and men are key economic players and citizens who our societies must trust, and whose participation must be valued, particularly within the areas of consultation for the development of public SSE policies.



The **SSE Caravans** enabled nearly 200 young players, entrepreneurs, community activists and researchers from 11 countries in Central and West Africa to take part in the Forum.

They were organized thanks to the involvement of the focal points in each of the countries concerned.

## Women's day for SSE



The **Women's Day for SSE** was a day dedicated to the essential commitment of women in the SSE. As key players in this sector, the participants and speakers were able to highlight the challenges they face and identify innovative solutions to meet them.

The day was structured around an **intergenerational dialogue** between 6 SSE Champions, experts in their fields, and 18 Young Women Leaders.





## A few recommendations from the Forum

Over the course of the **8 plenary sessions** and **80 workshops and self-organized sessions** of the main Forum, more than **400 speakers** shared their experiences and exchanged ideas on **7 main themes**.

The Forum's Scientific Committee then drew on these reflections to make recommendations.

### **Theme 1 - Co-construction of public policies**

We need to base this co-construction in favor of inclusive local economic development on “shared territorial diagnoses”, the fruit of citizen action and the reflections of civil society players.

### **Theme 2 - Blue Economy**

A sustainable blue economy requires a change of scale and paradigm with regard to the exploitation of fish stocks and biodiversity: reviewing public policies on the authorization of industrial fishing in favor of small-scale fishing.

### **Theme 3 - Green Economy**

Promoting citizens' involvement in the sustainable management of water, soil, biodiversity and waste, to encourage the emergence of agroecological production systems and local, resilient food systems.

### **Theme 4 - Digital Economy**

To counter the agenda of predation and dependence on the digital sector, the SSE must actively promote uses based on transparency, innovation, data sovereignty and the fight against the digital divide.

### **Theme 5 - Funding SSE**

Call on local governments to facilitate the emergence of financing instruments to support local initiatives proposed or led by SSE actors.

### **Theme 6 - Political dialogue**

Local governments must support the structuring of multi-stakeholder SSE networks, and secure spaces for dialogue and consultation, at the level of their territories, between civil society, SSE actors, conventional economy actors and public authorities.

### **Theme 7 - Links between research and practice in the SSE**

The link between Research and SSE practices must work towards the systematization of SSE indicators and their integration into statistics and accounting, from the local to the international level.

Read all about the Scientific Committee's recommendations, the summaries of the sessions and workshops, the **directory of speakers** and much more in **The Forum Proceedings**.



## ***The GSEF2023 Dakar Declaration - May 6, 2023***

### **The Dakar Declaration** [DOWNLOAD](#)

We, the more than 5000 individuals present at GSEF2023 in Dakar, from more than 250 cities and 70 countries affirm that throughout the world, everyone has the right to decent work and sufficient income to live in dignity. A liveable world requires emancipation from precarity and the destructive impact of the dominant economic model on the planet.

We also affirm that today, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) is the socio-economic model best able to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Hosting GSEF 2023 in Dakar, Senegal, the first Forum in Africa, is an exceptional event for the internationalization of the SSE on this continent. The social and solidarity economy is indeed present throughout the world, demonstrating its capacity to positively transform our societies and our territories.

Each new GSEF Forum reminds us that the power of the SSE lies both in its great unity and its great diversity. The diversity of the SSE increases its capacity for innovation and experimentation, while respecting local cultures and identities while working towards greater democracy and social and environmental justice.

The GSEF2023 Forum in Dakar comes at a special time for several reasons.

First, because we are gradually emerging from the pandemic which has had dramatic humanitarian, health, economic and social consequences. The GSEF Declaration Mexico 2021 reminds us that SSE organizations were able to demonstrate their capacity for resilience during these hard times.

Second, because of the inequality generated by the dominant model. There are winners, but above all there are losers. Young people, women, people in informal, popular and platform economies are especially affected. The economic model proposed by the social and solidarity economy based on cooperation and not competition, the primacy of people and nature over profit, is a powerful means to reverse this trend.

Our world today is characterized by increasing inequality and poverty, wars, discrimination and a succession of alarming IPCC reports. As already stated by GSEF Mexico in 2021, we need « a paradigm shift giving priority to people and the planet ».

Finally in one of its resolutions, the 2016 Montreal Declaration invited public authorities, and in particular, international organizations, to recognize the key role played by the SSE. The series of recent recommendations by international organizations, including the ILO, the OECD and the UN on April 18, have successfully advanced the institutional recognition of the social and solidarity economy. Continental organizations and States have also adopted enabling legislation, support and development strategies for the SSE. The social and solidarity economy is increasingly part of the political and economic landscape in all countries throughout the world.

However, these resolutions must not constitute mere texts ; they must lead to concrete actions. Therefore, given that Dakar 2023 is the first major international post-UN SSE Forum, it has made it possible to embody the resolution and to build a roadmap together. It will allow us to develop transformative territorial policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

By focusing on the specific conditions of young people and women, who experience even greater precariousness than the rest of the population and whose empowerment is a priority issue, as well as on improving the working and living conditions of workers in the informal economy, this Forum is also an opportunity to remind local and national governments of their responsibilities. These focuses have demonstrated the need to promote the transition from informal economies to collective and sustainable economies to enable access to social protection for workers living in economic insecurity. This also requires facilitating access to markets, sharing services, expertise, knowledge and resources.

Finally, we affirm that it is urgent to reconsider how wealth is created and work towards a more equitable redistribution.

Dakar GSEF2023 has been the occasion for numerous exchanges, reflections and proposals paving the way for an ecological, social and economic transformation.

...



### Call to action :

1. Have confidence in new generations by allowing them to exercise their power to act ;
2. Fight against all forms of discrimination that calls into question the autonomy of individuals and their ability to develop socio-economic initiative ;
3. Enable the social economy's processes of co-construction in territories by local population ;
4. Strengthen the collective economy as a privileged means of improving the conditions of those living in precarious and informal situations ;
5. Protect natural resources and biodiversity by promoting the commons and the circular economy to fight climate change ;
6. Institutionalize spaces of co-construction of inter-sectoral policies at all levels of government ;
7. Create alignment between local and national levels of government to assure the sustainable development of the social and solidarity economy ;
8. Create representation of youth within GSEF to follow up on proposals from the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, especially the development of financial tools to enable initiatives by youth ;
9. Integrate the themes of youth and women throughout future GSEF Forums ;
10. Initiate a campaign of awareness and promotion to better inform public authorities, the population at large, all economic actors and civil society of the SSE and its principles ;
11. Put in place tools to accompany local and national governments wishing to support the development of SSE in their territories ;
12. Work on the systemization of SSE indicators and their integration into national systems of statistics and accounting ;
13. Encourage the creation and development of SSE teaching programs at all levels of education and training ;
14. Strengthen research-action on SSE and partnership between the research community and SSE ;
15. Put in place an integrated of local technical and financial support adapted to the needs of collective enterprises, in particular for projects by young people and women ;
16. Create platforms to disseminate, share and promote initiatives, experience and knowledge to strengthen the capacity of SSE actors and public authorities to act ;
17. Hold an SSE-UN summit on a regular basis to take stock of the impact of the SSE Resolution adopted by the UN and the actions to be taken.

### **Declaration delivered at the closing ceremony of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum at the Grand Théâtre National in Dakar on May 6, 2023 by :**

Mr Mourade DIÈYE GUËYE, *Secretary General of the City of Dakar, Senegal*

Ms Laurence KWARK, *Former General Secretary of GSEF, South Korea*

Ms Marguerite MENDELL, *Director of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, and Professor at Concordia University, Canada*

Ms Denise Fatoumata NDOUR, *President of INAISE - International Association of Investors in the Social Economy*

Mr Stéphane PFEIFFER, *Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of resilient urban planning, public housing and SSE, France*

Mr Fabrice BALOU, *President of POJeT - Platform of Youth Organizations of Toulepleu, Côte d'Ivoire*

Ms Aude SALDANA, *GSEF General Secretary*

Ms Berenice ALCALDE, *Program Coordinator, INAES - National Institute of Social Economy, Mexico*

## Promotion

### Videos [dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/relive-the-forum/](https://dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/relive-the-forum/)

The GSEF commissioned the Dakar-based communications agency OFBD to produce videos recounting the highlights of the 6 days of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum.

- 5 short reports of 3 to 5 minutes were produced during the Forum, and broadcast during the opening plenary of each day of the Forum.
- A 10-minute capitalization film recounting the Forum in its entirety was produced following the Forum and published at the end of the year.



Days 1 & 2 - Youth & SSE Pre-Forum



Day 3 - Women's Day for SSE



Day 4 (including Opening)



Day 5 (including GSEF GA)



Day 6 (including Closing)



The Forum Film

### Replays [Watch all the replays on the GSEF Youtube channel](#)

The plenary sessions of the main Forum were broadcast live on the GSEF Youtube channel by La Télé Citoyenne.

Recordings are available online.



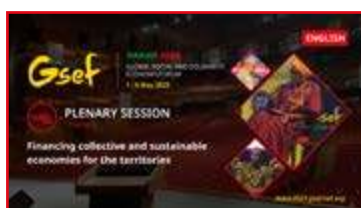
Theme 2



Theme 3



Theme 4



Theme 5



Theme 6



Theme 7



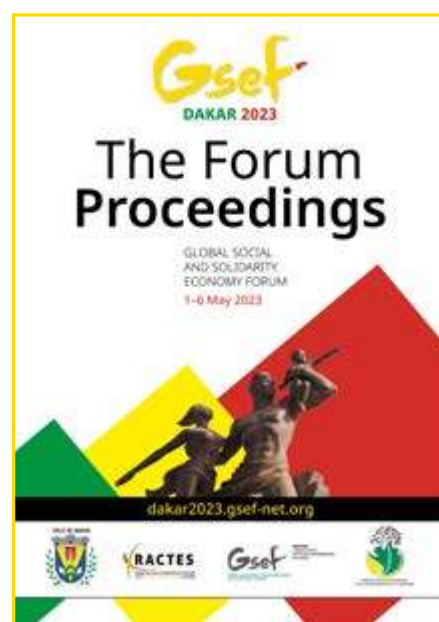
## The Forum Proceedings [dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/the-forum-proceedings/](https://dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/the-forum-proceedings/)

The aim of the Forum Proceedings is to document the events of DakarGSEF2023, to showcase the valuable exchanges that took place during the workshops and plenary sessions, to highlight the political moments of the Forum, and to encourage further networking through the directory of speakers. They are available in English, French and Spanish.

The proceedings were produced by the GSEF General Secretariat with the support of the City of Dakar, RACTES and the Senegalese Ministry of Microfinance and the Social Solidarity Economy.

### Contents :

- Editorials by the co-organizers
- The Forum figures
- The Dakar Declaration and the recommendations of the Scientific Committee
- Focus on special events: Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, SSE Caravans and Women's Day for SSE
- Detailed reports on the plenary sessions and their rebroadcasts
- Summaries of the 90 workshops and self-organized sessions
- The directory of 400+ speakers



## Photo gallery [dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/gallery/](https://dakar2023.gsef-net.org/en/gallery/)





# The General Secretariat

## THE GSEF GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN 2023

In 2023, the secretariat team was based at La Manuco, an entrepreneurial hub dedicated to the development and promotion of SSE in Bordeaux, France.



**Aude Saldana**  
*General Secretary*



**Martin Georges**  
*Program  
Coordinator*



**Thomas Allié**  
*Communication and  
Network Officer*



**Guillaume Weber**  
*Mission Officer - Research  
From September 2023*



**Laura Furini**  
*Administrator  
Until June 2023*



**Angélique Julia**  
*Administrator  
From November 2023*



**Enora Bizot**  
*International Solidarity Volunteer  
Based in Dakar until December 2023*

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER & SSE PARTNERS

GSEF is aware of the environmental impact of the international travel inherent in the activities of a global organization, and strives to limit it. Remote communications and meetings are preferred. The train is systematically used when distances allow, and carbon offsetting is implemented for air travel. Rather than traveling directly, the GSEF secretariat calls on its continental co-presidents to take part in events in their region.

The secretariat is committed to a policy of responsible purchasing, calling on SSE players in the fields of accounting (Finacoop), banking (Crédit Coopératif), payroll (Assistea RH - cooperative), human resources (Agec & co), information system (association La Traversée) and communications (Otempora cooperative).

## COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA

Communication is a key tool for carrying out GSEF's advocacy mission and ensuring the circulation of information within the network.

Work on GSEF's communication strategy and new visual identity came to fruition at the start of 2023, coinciding with the recruitment of a communications and network officer.

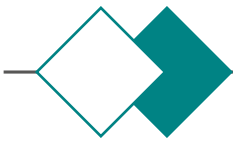
The GSEF's LinkedIn and Facebook social networks were reinvested this year, to promote and inform about the activities of the General Secretariat, GSEF members and partners, as well as to relay mobilization and raise the profile of DakarGSEF2023.

The number of subscribers/followers on each platform increased: +1,500 on LinkedIn, +450 on Facebook.

GSEF also posted replays of its webinars, DakarGSEF2023 plenary sessions and Forum capitalization videos on Youtube.

### Contact :

Thomas Allié - Communications and Network officer  
thomas.allie@gsef-net.org +33 626 148 701



The GSEF will continue to advocate ambitious public policies to states and local governments, and will continue to support the development of ecosystems favorable to the SSE worldwide.

We must collectively maintain the momentum of the Dakar GSEF2023 Forum and keep demonstrating that the SSE is a tool for democracy in the development of territories, at the heart of responses to social needs for protection and the fight against exclusion and poverty, and that it can generate sustainable capacities for cooperation and organization of transitions for citizens, anchored in territories and driven by civil society.

Since the Dakar Forum, GSEF has been called upon by numerous governments and civil society players to support the development of SSE ecosystems. The expressed needs relate to the development of public policies, capacity building (training), support for job creation among young people, and the structuring of networks of players or networks of municipalities.

### ***Accompanying the change of scale following the momentum of international recognition of the SSE***

After overseeing the relocation of the GSEF to Bordeaux in 2022 and the organization of the Dakar Forum in 2023, it is now crucial that the GSEF develops its operational capacity to support the scaling-up of the SSE. As announced at the last two General Assemblies, we are determined to develop GSEF's operational capacity.

Operationality is an existing function, at the heart of the organization's business model.

Indeed, through its international advocacy work, GSEF has contributed to the historic momentum for recognition of the SSE at an international level. Following the adoption of the European Social Economy Plan in December 2021, the year 2022 saw the adoption of an OECD recommendation and a universal definition of the SSE by the ILO. On April 18, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the SSE resolution "Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development". It is in this context that the GSEF will pursue its missions in 2024.

Our responsibility as a global SSE organization is now to support the change of scale, enabling the widespread development of public policies favorable to the deployment of SSE structures, co-constructed through close dialogue with networks of SSE players, civil society and communities.

Programs will be achieved through **strengthened collaboration with GSEF members, as field implementation partners**. The strength of the GSEF members' network will be demonstrated by the sharing of expertise.

## **SUPPORTING THE GSEF**

GSEF operates thanks to membership fees and the support of the City of Bordeaux, Bordeaux Métropole, the Gironde Department and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.





Global Forum  
for Social and Solidarity  
Economy

Global organization of local governments  
and civil society networks



**[gsef-net.org](http://gsef-net.org)**

**GSEF Secretariat**

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