

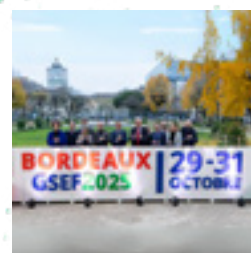
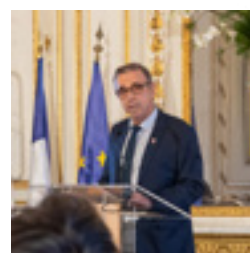
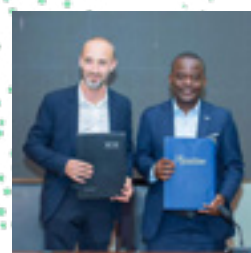
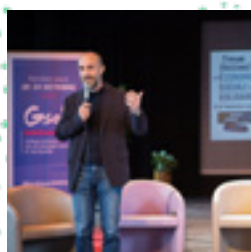


Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy

From DakarGSEF2023 to BordeauxGSEF2025

After international recognition, a pivotal year to turn commitments into concrete actions for the SSE

2024 Activity Report



Global organization of local governments and civil society networks
committed to the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy

2024 Activity Report

From DakarGSEF2023 to BordeauxGSEF2025

After international recognition, a pivotal year to turn commitments into concrete actions for the SSE

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Pierre Hurmic

Mayor of Bordeaux, GSEF Co-Chair City

On behalf of the City of Bordeaux and the local governments co-chairing the GSEF, I would like to greet all member organizations of the network, its partners and long-standing allies, as well as the new members who joined us in 2024. Each year, the GSEF brings together new local governments and organizations, united around the values and principles of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

Now more than ever, it is our responsibility as local elected officials to strongly advocate for a new narrative of social cohesion and local solidarity—an economy that puts people at the center and respects natural resources and our environment. This economy—centered on biodiversity, care, and decent work—is embedded in our municipal political project, and through the GSEF, we carry it forward internationally as a sustainable development model across all continents.

I believe in the diplomacy of cities and territories. Often overshadowed by the tensions of state diplomacy, it is a diplomacy of concrete solutions, grounded in the daily lives of our communities. Together, we can bring forth cooperative and solidarity-based economic models. That is what we strive to do within the GSEF. We promote multilateralism—not only as a method between national governments, but also as a key success factor in our local projects.

In 2024, the GSEF began a reflection process on its political vision and governance. In 2025, it will adopt a new political charter and revised statutes to strengthen democracy and representation within the organization. I will be committed to safeguarding its strong identity and unifying capacity.

Today, our network can be proud of the progress it has made with all of you—whether in advancing continental dynamics or through the ongoing work of the thematic working groups. The GSEF provides a framework to share our visions and be inspired by the best practices implemented around the world. This is no easy task in a context marked by inward-looking policies and threats to democracy and multilateralism.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the creation of the GSEF's intercontinental youth hub. Thanks to their commitment, young people from around the world are joining the movement for a sustainable, inclusive, and ecological future.

I am also pleased to see the development of new legislative frameworks, such as the one recently adopted in Côte d'Ivoire. I congratulate the GSEF members who played a part in this achievement. In 2024, Brazil also passed a framework law recognizing the role of SSE in combating poverty, hunger, and inequality. And the African Union adopted a ten-year SSE strategy. I could also mention the declaration by G20 labor and employment ministers in Fortaleza in July 2024.

In late November, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a second resolution on SSE: "Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development." It includes the 7th edition of the GSEF Global SSE Forum on the international agenda for 2025.

Let us continue to develop innovative public policies to prove that another economy is possible—by and for the people and communities who live across our territories, all around the world.



Stéphane Montuzet

*President of the Regional SSE Chamber of Nouvelle-Aquitaine
GSEF Co-Chair SSE Network*

It is always a great pleasure to represent the women and men, and networks of the Social and Solidarity Economy within the GSEF.

While continuing all its missions and activities, the GSEF carried out in 2024 an important process of consolidation and forward-looking reflection on its political project.

This consolidation includes welcoming new members—local governments as well as SSE networks. We warmly thank and welcome them. This evolution clearly reflects a shared desire to act together and combine our capacities for collective impact.

Advocacy remained in 2024 a strategic pillar of the GSEF, with ongoing alliances built with major networks to bring the SSE narrative to a broader audience. We continued to promote coalitions and collective mobilization, notably within the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE (UNTFSSSE), where we have held observer status since 2017.

Our thematic working groups, actively led by our members, have made it possible to develop new tools and resources, while showcasing the expertise of our members and partners. These groups reflect the GSEF's ability to circulate innovative practices, connect local realities, and contribute to a shared global vision.

We also launched a broader reflection on our political project through the rewriting of the GSEF Charter. This process will be finalized in 2025, alongside a reform of our statutes, to better include our new members and partners.

A key effort has also been made to diversify our economic model, to equip the GSEF with the necessary means to meet growing demands for support and to foster the development of SSE around the world.

These steps will complete a period of repositioning and revitalization for the GSEF, enabling us to better address today's many challenges.

In the face of growing obscurantism, we must respond with cooperation and solidarity, and promote education, training, and individual and collective empowerment.

The diversity of our members is a tremendous asset. As a network rooted in local territories and open to the world, the GSEF affirms through each of its actions its commitment to social justice, inclusion, ecological transition, democracy, and peace.

This activity report reflects those commitments: from the development of legal frameworks to the growing recognition of youth voices—these are all strong markers of progress.

The upcoming Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum in Bordeaux, from October 29 to 31, 2025, will be a moment to demonstrate our unity and call for full recognition and support of SSE values, principles, and actors.

Thank you all for your commitment, your trust, and your active contribution to this collective journey.



Introduction

◆ Introduction - the GSEF in 2024

The GSEF 2024 Activity Report recounts **the milestones of our organization and the vitality of the actions carried out by the General Secretariat, members and governance**, committed across all continents. These highlights testify of the involvement of members in carrying out initiatives and projects in the field, cooperating to conduct local and regional advocacy, and building public policies favorable to the development of the SSE, in the four corners of the planet.

From DakarGSEF2023 to BordeauxGSEF2025: 2024 began with the publication of the Proceedings of the Dakar World SSE Forum, and ended with the launch ceremony at Bordeaux City Hall for the seventh edition of the Global SSE Forum, which will take place in October 2025. **Every two years, the GSEF organizes the Global SSE Forum**, which has become a key event for all players, academics and governments, committed to demonstrating that an economy that serves people and protects nature is already present in all sectors of the economy. The Forum strengthens cooperation and calls on governments and international institutions to support an effective and massive change in the scale of the SSE, and to commit to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Organized just a few days after the adoption of the first United Nations resolution recognizing the role of the SSE, the Sixth edition of the Forum, held in Dakar, supported the dynamic of recognition and development of the SSE on the African continent. We'll come back to this strong momentum in Africa, as well as to other continental dynamics, endogenous and rooted in the territories. These include the creation in January 2024 of RIFESS, the Ibero-American SSE Network, comprising 6 countries, the organization of the 1st FORA'ESS in Yaoundé, the vote on the law recognizing the SSE in Brazil, and the adoption of the African Union's Ten-Year SSE Strategy.

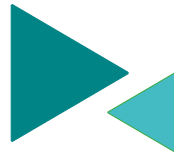
The SSE is rooted in territories, towns and countryside. Its players build social cohesion at local level, encourage cooperation and play an essential role in ecological transition and regional development. They have demonstrated their considerable capacity to adapt, enhanced by their ability to join forces with other local players. The GSEF was founded in response to this realization of the power of the SSE in local economic and social development.

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 and territories. An initiative of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the GSEF stands out from existing international SSE initiatives and networks. Its focus on the role of local governments is a clear affirmation of their crucial role in the governance and resolution of the major challenges of the 21st century, be they climate change, social cohesion or 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.

Since its creation, the GSEF has been convinced that systemic change begins at local level, based on a partnership between civil society and the public and private sectors, with the ambition that SSE should scale up and become the norm for tomorrow's economy, integrating collective management of the commons.



The GSEF is seen as an important force for convergence, through its many partnerships and links with other international networks, as well as a force for action. 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 enables us to join forces to promote the SSE and, with it, a change in development models.



◆ 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

◆ The GSEF at a glance

Check out the GSEF presentation and more at

gsef-net.org

Follow our activities



[Download the GSEF brochure](#)



Governance and network animation

The City of Bordeaux and the Regional Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy of Nouvelle-Aquitaine (CRESS N-A) have held the Co-Presidency of the GSEF since October 2021. This Co-Presidency embodies the diversity of the network's membership — local governments, networks of municipalities, SSE actors, NGOs, universities — and reflects a shared vision based on inclusive dialogue for the co-construction of public policies that support the development of the SSE, and on territorial cooperation to meet fundamental community needs at the heart of inclusive and sustainable economic development

Ensuring the proper functioning of internal governance and the animation of a global network of 87 members is a daily challenge. Strengthening network engagement and cohesion remains a top priority for 2025. We must continue building a shared identity and nurturing a strong sense of belonging.

In line with its charter and values, the GSEF is committed to democratic governance and aims to:

- Support the members of the Steering Committee in leading the network politically;
- Empower the Steering Committee to play an active role in GSEF's strategic direction;
- Reinforce the role of continental co-presidents in amplifying GSEF's advocacy and global outreach;
- Ensure the participation of all members in the network's life and mission;
- Recognize and value the active involvement of members in the GSEF.

The election of the current Steering Committee took place during an Extraordinary General Assembly in November 2023. Members were elected for a two-year term and are responsible for guiding the organization through to the BordeauxGSEF2025 Global Forum.

THE GSEF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In 2024, the GSEF welcomed 9 new members from 4 continents, reflecting the diversity of stakeholders in the Social and Solidarity Economy:

- Municipality of Golf Sud (Senegal)
- ARDCI – Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire
- NARMIN – National Association of Rural Municipalities of Nepal
- SENS Bénin – North-South Enterprise Solidarity (Benin)
- Namuna Sahakari Kheti – Model Agricultural Cooperative (Nepal)
- Nova NGO (France, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire)
- ASEFCE NGO – Africa Solidarity for Employment, Training and Enterprise Creation (Benin)
- FEBEA – European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers
- ISTEPS – Higher Technological Institute for Popular and Solidarity Social Economy (Ecuador)

febea

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES FINANCIERS
ET BANQUIERS ETHIQUES ET ALTERNATIFS
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ETHICAL AND
ALTERNATIVE BANKS AND FINANCIERS



गाउँपालिका राष्ट्रिय महासंघ नेपाल
National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal
... STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL ...



INSTITUTO SUPERIOR
TECNOLÓGICO DE LA
ECONOMÍA SOCIAL,
POPULAR Y SOLIDARIA





As of 2024, the GSEF has **87 members** across **35 countries**.

Geographic Distribution



By membership category		By type of organization		By region	
29	Full Members – Local Governments	23	Local Governments	1	Middle East
28	Full Members – SSE Networks and Actors	8	Networks of Local Governments	4	North America
27	Associate Members	1	Multi-stakeholder Network (Local Governments and SSE Actors)	8	Latin America and the Caribbean
3	Honorary Members	22	Civil Society Networks	17	Europe
		23	SSE Actors (NGOs, Cooperatives, Foundations, Social Enterprises)	20	Asia
		6	Universities / Research Institutes	38	Africa
		4	Social/Solidarity Finance Institutions or Networks		

2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the GSEF's central decision-making body. It brings together all member organizations once a year and, every two years, elects the members of the Steering Committee and the host city of the next GSEF Global Forum. The assemblies are simultaneously interpreted in English, French, and Spanish, and the minutes are shared with all members.

◆ 2024 General Assembly

June 11, 2024 – Online meeting - 76 participants – 50 organizations represented

- Approval of the GSEF's moral and financial reports for the year 2023
- Presentation of priorities and activities for the first half of 2024
- Introduction of the 2024–2025 continental roadmaps
- Progress update on the working groups approved during the 2023 General Assembly in Dakar
- BordeauxGSEF2025: status report on the organization of the 7th edition of the GSEF Global Forum, one year after the city's election

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 Bora Kim, President of SSEGOV and
Mayor of Anseong-si, Gyeonggi*

AFRICA

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

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

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

CONCERTES
BELGIUM
Ms Bénédicte Sohet, Secretary General

5 MEETINGS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

In 2024, **the GSEF Steering Committee** met five times: four quarterly meetings and one special session, all held online with English-French simultaneous interpretation.

• January 16 • April 3 • September 11 • October 17 (Special Session) • December 12

The Steering Committee is composed of 20 elected members of the GSEF for a two-year term, including the two Co-Presidents and the eight Continental Co-Presidents. The members represent equally local governments and SSE organizations.

TOWARDS A REVISION OF THE GSEF CHARTER

Twelve years after its creation, the GSEF launched a major initiative in 2024: the revision of its founding Charter. In light of the network's growth, evolving internal dynamics, and a changing international context, this reform aims to clarify the GSEF's political foundations and adapt its governance to today's challenges.

It is about reaffirming the identity of the GSEF — a space for cooperation between local governments and SSE actors — while strengthening member participation, rethinking governance, and fully integrating new voices within the network: youth, thematic networks, and strategic alliances.

This process will result in two distinct documents: **a renewed political Charter**, articulating shared values, vision, and mission; and **updated Bylaws**, defining the rules for membership, representation, and governance.

An **international working group** was established following a special session of the Steering Committee on October 17, 2024, and is currently leading this process. The group brings together members of the Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the GSEF Secretariat. It has already met twice between November and December.

The work is organized in two phases: the first focuses on the Charter, and the second — starting in April 2025 — will address the Bylaws. Throughout the process, GSEF members and the Steering Committee will be actively engaged through consultations, feedback loops, and successive meetings.

The final vote on both documents will take place at the GSEF General Assembly on October 30, 2025, in Bordeaux, during the BordeauxGSEF2025 Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum.



[Read the GSEF Charter](#)



5 MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is a consultative and strategic body that supports the GSEF Secretariat in its work. It is composed of founding members and SSE experts from across the five continents.

Created in 2018, its mandate was formally included in the GSEF Charter in 2023 to strengthen its role and recognition among all stakeholders of the organization. The Committee met five times in 2024:

• February 10 • May 14 • July 10 • October 2 • December 10

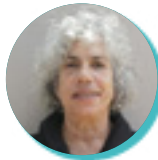
Composition of the GSEF Advisory Committee



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*



Laurence Kwark
*Former Secretary General of GSEF
Korea*



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



Dominique Lesaffre
*Solidarity finance advisor
France*



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



Leandro Morais
*Professor, University of São Paulo
Brazil*

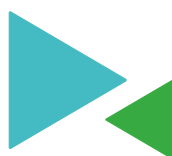


Marguerite Mendell
*Distinguished Professor Emerita, School of
Community and Public Affairs and Director,
Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
Professor, Concordia University
Quebec, Canada*



Antonella Noya
*Social Economy expert
Former OECD Head of Unit
Italy
New member in 2024*

[Learn more about the Advisory Committee](#)





Governance and network animation

The GSEF is grounded on the sharing of experiences and inspiring innovations across borders, capable of addressing the major social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by territories. It places the Social and Solidarity Economy at the service of communities and local governments by mobilizing resources, expertise, awareness-raising tools, and training to support the emergence of public policies in favor of SSE.

Animating the network of members and partners is a core pillar of GSEF's action. It is built on two complementary dimensions:

- ♦ **A continental dynamic**, led in close collaboration with elected continental co-presidents, rooted in regional realities ;
- ♦ **A thematic dynamic**, coordinated with members, the GSEF Advisory Committee experts and partners, enabling in-depth work on major transversal issues of SSE.

CONTINENTAL DYNAMICS

Led by the **continental co-presidents** elected in 2023, the continental dynamics embody GSEF's strong commitment to decentralization and grounding in territorial realities. They represent a key pillar of network animation by creating structured spaces of cooperation at every continental level.

In 2024, in-depth work was carried out with the co-presidents to develop and implement **continental roadmaps**. Presented during the April meeting of the Steering Committee and discussed through continental dialogues, these roadmaps identify GSEF's strategic priorities per continent in terms of advocacy, mobilization, and project implementation.

Each roadmap includes:

- A calendar of major events to support member participation and visibility ;
- A mapping of actions organized or supported by GSEF, to facilitate planning and funding ;
- A list of associated researchers and experts ;
- Key advocacy themes and target to reach out ;
- The needs and expectations expressed by members, aligned with GSEF's areas of action.

Two cross-cutting themes underpin all the roadmaps: youth engagement, and the inclusion and empowerment of women in SSE organizations.

Continental dialogue meetings, organized on average twice a year, either virtually or in person, are key spaces for exchange, coordination, and mutual learning among members. Agendas are co-developed with members under the leadership of the continental co-presidents.

This section of the report offers an overview by continent of the key events and highlights of 2024, the priorities of the 2024–2025 roadmaps, and member spotlights that illustrate the diversity of SSE contexts across the globe.



IN NORTH AMERICA



Continental Co-Chairs

In 2024, the dynamic in North America was structured around the priorities defined in the continental roadmap, under the coordination of the Chantier de l'économie sociale, GSEF continental co-president for the region.

These priorities aim to:

- ▶ Ensure that the universal definition of the SSE set out in the United Nations resolutions (2023 and 2024) and ILO recommendations is put into practice ;
- ▶ Strengthen the sense of belonging to SSE in English-speaking Canada and the United States, by developing partnerships with existing networks ;
- ▶ Support the structuring of a network of cities committed to SSE, following the example of inspiring initiatives led in South Korea (SSEGOV), France (RTES), or Cameroon (REMCESS), by documenting strategies and fostering exchange between municipalities.

These long-term initiatives aim to consolidate a shared vision of SSE at the North American level, drawing on Quebec's vibrant ecosystem and strengthening cross-border synergies.

Toward the Social Economy Summit in Quebec

On May 14 and 15, 2025, Montréal will host the Social Economy Summit, a milestone event for the future of the movement in Quebec. Led by the Chantier de l'économie sociale, GSEF continental co-president for North America, the Summit is part of a broad co-construction process.

In collaboration with many strategic partners, the preparatory work aims to develop a collective vision, formulate concrete proposals, and launch new structuring initiatives around key themes: socio-ecological transition, equity and employment, local governance, shared real estate, food, culture, environment, inclusion of older adults, and entrepreneurial succession.

The Summit will be a moment of commitment for public authorities, citizen organizations, and social economy networks, with the ambition of strengthening alliances, anchoring progress, and raising the profile of SSE in Québec and beyond.

[Learn more about the Social Economy Summit](#)



IN AFRICA



CITY OF DAKAR
(SENEGAL)



PLATEFORME
DES ACTEURS
NON ETATIQUE
PLATEFORME OF NON STATE
ACTORS (SENEGAL)

Continental Co-Chairs

Since the Global SSE Forum held in Dakar in May 2023, the African dynamic around SSE has significantly intensified. In 2024, GSEF committed to supporting this momentum by backing the priorities collectively defined by its members and strengthening structuring partnerships led by actors across the continent.

Two major events marked 2024:

FORA'ESS – First edition of the African Forum on the Social and Solidarity

From May 29 to June 1, 2024, the city of Yaoundé in Cameroon hosted **the first edition of FORA'ESS**.

Born from the dynamic launched at DakarGSEF2023, this continental gathering brought together **over 1,000 participants from 30 African countries**. Designed as a political and territorial response to the continent's challenges, it is intended to become a biennial event alternating with GSEF Global Forums.

GSEF actively supported the organization of the event, notably through its African co-president Malick Diop from the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal, and REMCESS – Network of Mayors of Cameroon for SSE.

Several highlights shaped this first edition, including:

- ▶ **The mayors' panel**, bringing together representatives from Dakar, Bordeaux, Olanjuina, Golf-Sud, ARDCI, Kibouende, and the Regional Council of the Oriental Region ;
- ▶ **Workshops and plenaries** co-organized by REMCESS, GIZ, FEICOM, and GSEF, focused on responsible public procurement and support for youth and women entrepreneurship.

Four texts were adopted, including the Final Declaration of FORA'ESS and the Declaration of Local Authorities decentralized, reflecting the collective commitments made on this occasion.

[Final Declaration of FORA'ESS](#) • [FORA'ESS Resolution](#) • [Declaration of Local Authorities](#)
[Youth Pre-Forum Conclusions](#) • [More on FORA'ESS](#)

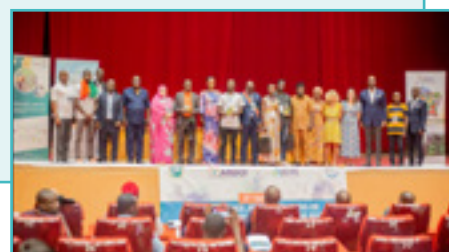


2nd Young Leaders Forum on SSE

The second edition of the Young Leaders Forum on SSE was held from October 29 to 31, 2024, in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, under the leadership of Fabrice Balou, co-pilot of the SSE Youth Hub for Africa.

This event helped strengthen the involvement of African youth in transformation dynamics aligned with GSEF's priorities.

[Yamoussoukro Resolutions](#) • [SSE Youth Initiative Booklet](#)
More on the Young Leaders Forum on page 23



Perspectives

The year was also marked by the adoption by the African Union of a ten-year continental strategy on SSE. The GSEF will support its dissemination and implementation through partnerships with local governments and networks.

In addition, GSEF was called upon in several countries to support the development of SSE ecosystems: assistance with policy design, training activities, support for network structuring, and job creation for youth. In 2024, it supported the organization of national SSE conferences in Ivory Coast and Benin.

Focus on two GSEF members from Africa

► City of Dakar – Local government (Senegal)

Member of the Steering Committee & Continental Co-president – Africa

The City of Dakar plays an active role in developing local public policies in support of SSE, in close collaboration with civil society networks and national authorities. It also contributes to GSEF's continental activities, notably through its involvement in regional dialogues and major African events.

SSE Context – Senegal

Senegal has made major strides in the institutional recognition of SSE, with the creation of a dedicated ministry in 2017, followed by the adoption of a framework law in 2021. The country benefits from a dynamic ecosystem where cooperatives, associations, and local economic groups strengthen social cohesion and territorial development.

Strengths

- Solid institutional framework (ministry, framework law)
- Strong mobilization of local authorities
- Diversity of legal forms of SSE across the territory
- Active international partnerships

Challenges

- National strategic coordination still to be strengthened
- Lack of suitable infrastructure and qualified human resources
- Weakness of financing tools dedicated to SSE

► Regional Council of the Oriental Region – Local government (Morocco)

Member of the Steering Committee

The Regional Council of the Oriental Region is an active GSEF member and a key actor in developing SSE in Morocco. Its action is part of a favorable national framework, particularly through the law on cooperatives (112.12). The region is notable for its strong cooperative dynamic, especially in agriculture, and for the significant participation of women in urban areas.

SSE Context – Morocco

SSE in Morocco is built on a dual foundation: age-old community traditions (touiza, jemaa) and a developing cooperative framework. A forthcoming framework law currently being drafted should further strengthen this momentum.

Strengths

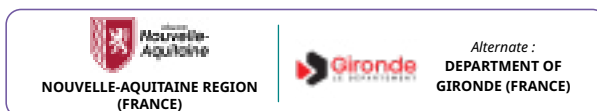
- Strong development of the cooperative spirit (women, young beekeepers)
- Existing financial support (regional and national levels)
- Large pool of cooperatives structured by sector
- Significant job creation potential

Challenges

- Laws still poorly adapted to field realities
- Limited technical support before and after launching activities
- Difficult access to infrastructure meeting regulatory standards



IN EUROPE



Continental Co-Chairs

The European dynamic of GSEF is part of a long-term strategy aimed at making SSE a lever for economic The momentum of SSE in Europe has been driven for many years by countries such as Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, and Luxembourg, with support from the European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Nicolas Schmidt, and confirmed by the adoption of the European Social Economy Action Plan in December 2021.

In 2024, this dynamic focused on consolidating inter-network partnerships, strengthening European advocacy, and actively participating in major political events. GSEF and its members contributed in particular to the European conferences held in San Sebastián (November 2023) and Liège (February 2024), which marked a broadening of the mobilization to new EU countries such as Germany, Bulgaria, and Poland.

In complementarity with longstanding networks such as Social Economy Europe and REVES, GSEF is working to co-construct a common advocacy. In 2025, this advocacy will focus in particular on the implementation of the international dimension of the European Social Economy Action Plan in support of solidarity-based cooperation with countries in the Global South. Another key priority will be the territorial implementation of the job guarantee, in connection with the “Zero Long-Term Unemployed” experiments.

Focus on two GSEF members from Europe

► ConcertES – National network (Belgium)

Member of the Steering Committee & Continental Co-president – Europe

ConcertES plays a structuring role in disseminating SSE values and practices in Wallonia. It brings together grassroots actors, represents their interests to public authorities, and actively contributes to the development of regional public policies.

SSE context – Belgium

The social economy is regulated in Wallonia by a regional decree of 2008. It covers many sectors: ecological transition, social inclusion, housing, short supply chains, reuse, sheltered employment, etc. The region relies on a dense and historically rooted associative fabric, and on structuring public mechanisms such as the SSE Observatory.

Strengths

- Strong legal framework and dedicated administration
- Reliable data thanks to the SSE Observatory
- Capacity for innovation in diverse sectors
- Alternativ'ES strategy and ambitious communication plan

Challenges

- SSE still marginalized compared to profit-driven logics
- Low cross-sectoral integration in public policies
- Lack of integration at all levels of governance

Key figures

- 1 in 8 jobs in Wallonia belong to the social economy
- SSE is present in more than 10 sectors: energy, employment, inclusion, transition...



► Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region – Local Government (France)

Member of the Steering Committee & Continental Co-president – Europe

The Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region is a pioneer in the institutionalization of SSE. It was the first French region to create an SSE department integrated within the economic development division. It supports the structuring of actors, youth dynamics, and develops cooperation with other regions worldwide.

SSE Context – France

Since the 2014 SSE law, French local governments have a clear framework to develop their public policies in favor of SSE. In Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the dynamic is particularly strong, with initiatives focused on education, support for collective entrepreneurship, and social innovation.

Strengths

- Dedicated SSE department and political delegation
- Active cooperation with CRESS, ESPER, and the National Education system
- Over 100 organizations in the “Youth & SSE” collective
- Incubation and innovation programs (CJS, Fab’ESS)

Challenges

- Uneven visibility across territories and sectors
- Need to strengthen integration with ecological transition
- Expansion needed beyond the most advanced areas

Key figures

- 3rd French region in terms of SSE employment volume
- 246,065 SSE employees, representing 16% of regional private employment
- 19,840 SSE employer organizations
- 1.2 million volunteers in the region

IN ASIA



Continental Co-Chair

The continental dynamic in Asia intensified in 2024, driven by the Continental Co-president SSEGOV, in close collaboration with active members in the region.

It is based on a roadmap structured around four priorities: supporting local governments in the integration of SSE, highlighting its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting the United Nations Resolution on SSE, and contributing to the establishment of enabling legal frameworks.

Two continental policy dialogues punctuated the year: the first in May, then a second in December, which marked a key step in consolidating this collective strategy.

Asia Policy Dialogue – December 2024

Co-organized with the Continental Co-president SSEGOV, the Asia Policy Dialogue of December 2024 brought together 57 participants from 14 countries. It made it possible to:

- ▶ highlight the contribution of SSE to the resilience of Asian territories,
- ▶ share existing public policies in several countries,
- ▶ emphasize key levers for a strong SSE ecosystem: regional advocacy, capacity building, financial innovation..

[Replay](#)



GSEF Mission to Seoul

In November 2024, a GSEF mission to South Korea helped strengthen ties with the founding members of the network and support the growing momentum of the SSE dynamic in Asia.

Alongside the Seoul Metropolitan Government, SSEGOV, the SVS Fund, and the Seoul Social Economy Network, the GSEF took part in the National SSE Congress, marking an important step in reviving the historical cooperation initiated in Seoul.

This mission also aimed to actively mobilize Korean partners for their participation in the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum BordeauxGSEF2025, particularly youth networks.

Exchanges were also held with Gyeonggi Province, illustrating the commitment of local governments to structuring ambitious public policies in support of SSE.

[Learn more](#)





Focus on two Asian members of the GSEF

► National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal – Network of local governments

GSEF Member since 2024

NARMIN brings together Nepal's rural municipalities and works to strengthen the role of local governments in economic development, notably through initiatives close to SSE (agriculture, tourism, cooperatives). The organization advocates for a clearer and more coordinated structuring of these local dynamics, in favor of more inclusive governance.

SSE Context – Nepal

Although SSE is not formally defined, many areas of intervention—often funded through local budgets—are aligned with its principles. However, the absence of a policy framework hinders their recognition and coordination at the national level.

Strengths

- Local support for key sectors related to SSE
- Numerous and diverse cooperatives
- Strong community involvement

Challenges

- Lack of a clear policy framework
- Poorly coordinated initiatives
- Limited institutional capacities

► Association for the Promotion of SSE in Japan (APSSE-J) – SSE Network

Active member of the continental advocacy

The APSSE-J advocates for the institutional recognition of the SSE in Japan. Its action focuses on strengthening territorial solidarity and promoting cooperatives as key drivers of more equitable development, especially in rural areas experiencing a decline in vitality.

SSE Context – Japan

The country benefits from a dense cooperative network, but SSE is little recognized as such by public authorities. The main challenge lies in the sector's visibility and the mobilization of structured advocacy.

Strengths

- Strong cooperative potential
- Growing commitment from local authorities
- Local heritage of territorial solidarity

Challenges

- Lack of official recognition of SSE
- Weak coordination among stakeholders
- Still limited awareness among stakeholders

IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF SOCIAL ECONOMY
(MEXICO)

Continental Co-Chair

In 2024, the continental dynamic in Latin America and the Caribbean was structured around an ambitious roadmap, led by our continental co-pilot INAES Mexico and collectively developed with members from the region.

This strategy is based on five priorities: raising awareness among local and national governments about SSE ; strengthening youth mobilization ; promoting the definition of SSE adopted by the United Nations; demonstrating its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ; and supporting knowledge production as well as intergovernmental dynamics such as RIFESS – the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of SSE.

GSEF actively contributed to several key moments on the continent in 2024, strengthening its institutional presence and consolidating synergies with movements, universities, governments, and historic SSE networks.

COP16 Biodiversity and ECOOVIDA2024

In October 2024, the GSEF attended the 16th United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in Cali, Colombia. Céline Papin, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux, participated in a panel on “Women and Biodiversity” to present the SSE policies of the City of Bordeaux, notably in favor of women's employment, and to highlight GSEF's leadership commitment to social and ecological transitions through territorial cooperation.



At the same time, GSEF participated in ECOOVIDA2024, the international gathering of “economies for life,” held from October 22 to 26 and organized by Unidad Solidaria with the support of numerous networks: FSMET, RIPESS, COLACOT, MAELA, RULESCOOP, International SSE Forum, Via Campesina... Over 3,000 participants came together around thematic forums, political plenaries, solidarity journeys, and convergence spaces.

GSEF took part in the opening plenary, facilitated two sessions on international instruments for SSE, and collaborated with its member, the Cooperative University of Colombia, on the forum “Popular and Community Education.”

The meetings resulted in the adoption of an International Pact of Economies for Life, calling for the concrete implementation of the UN Resolution on SSE and the creation of a dedicated Global Observatory.

[The International Pact of Economies for Life](#)



Towards new cooperations in Brazil

The GSEF and the city of Maricá in Brazil have initiated a collaboration following their visit to Bordeaux in June.

The Secretary General herself traveled to Maricá in November to participate in the SSE conference, EGAPES, organized by the City of Bordeaux. She notably visited CODEMAR and Banco Mumbuca. A letter of intent was signed between GSEF and the city to consolidate the partnership and the city's membership in the GSEF.

[The Maricá visit to Bordeaux](#) • [The GSEF visit to Brazil](#)

Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy

The RIFESS was created in Mexico City in January 2024, in response to the historic adoption by the UN of the first resolution recognizing SSE as a lever for sustainable development. Its objective: to encourage public policies that support this economic model rooted in territories and non-relocatable.

Led by the governments of Spain, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico — soon to be joined by Portugal and Cuba — this network fosters the structuring of an SSE ecosystem bringing together cooperatives, worker-owned enterprises, mutuals, integration companies, specialized employment centers... It promotes the full integration of these structures into regional economies, following a logic of solidarity and sustainability.

The RIFESS embodies a strong political vision: according to Spain's Minister of Labour, Yolanda Díaz, this network is "a cooperation instrument that will strengthen democracy and social justice in all Ibero-American countries." It offers a credible economic alternative to the current global disorder, placing equitable wealth distribution, community sovereignty, and decent work at the heart of its commitments.

GSEF supported this initiative from its inception and participated in the **Ibero-American Seminar on Social and Solidarity Economy, co-organized by INAES Mexico and the RIFESS**. The event, broadcast live to widen its reach, brought together national and international public institutions committed to promoting local, sustainable, and inclusive development, centered on concrete cooperations.

Focus on two Latin American members of GSEF

► ISTEPS – Higher Technological Institute of Popular and Solidarity Social Economy (Ecuador)

Member since December 2024

ISTEPS, based in Cuenca, is a key academic player in Ecuador. It works to professionalize the SSE sector through training, applied research, and partnerships with producer organizations.

SSE Context – Ecuador

The SSE has been enshrined in the Constitution since 2008 and governed by an organic law from 2011. It plays a strategic role in rural territories and with vulnerable populations. The region relies on a dense and historically rooted associative fabric, as well as on structuring public mechanisms such as the SSE Observatory.

Strengths

- Strong legal framework (Constitution, 2011 law)
- Well-structured producer networks
- Potential for training and social innovation
- Active public/community cooperation

Challenges

- Competition with the informal sector
- Still limited visibility compared to the private sector
- Need to strengthen support and technological resources

► Mexico City – Local Government (Mexico)

Member since 2018, host of GSEF2021

Mexico City develops SSE support policies linked to working-class neighborhoods, collective enterprises, and cooperatives. It relies on an ambitious SSE law and a dedicated public agency: INAES.

SSE Context – Mexico

The SSE is governed by the 2012 SSE law and anchored in Article 25 of the Constitution. It includes a wide range of cooperative, community, and solidarity organizations.

Strengths

- Clear legal framework (SSE + cooperatives)
- Technical and operational support through INAES
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships across 32 states
- Significant economic weight of the sector

Challenges

- Institutional recognition still to be consolidated
- Inequalities in access to training and financing
- Direct competition with private sector actors

THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

The GSEF develops a structured thematic animation strategy to foster collective and operational expertise on SSE issues. Through working groups co-led by its members and experts, the network promotes peer-to-peer learning, the sharing of local public policies, and the capitalization of inspiring practices at the international level.

These thematic dynamics aim to:

- ▶ foster technical cooperation between members on key topics;
- ▶ organize webinars, meetings, and joint productions;
- ▶ support the development of advocacy based on grassroots experiences;
- ▶ and bring together contributions from researchers and practitioners to support systemic transformation.

This section highlights the working groups active in 2024, their progress, ongoing outputs, and the upcoming valorization of their work at the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum.



Working group

Financing SSE

Co-lead by :



SVS Fund
Korea Social Value and Solidarity Foundation
South Korea
GSEF member



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



INAISE

INAISE
International Association of Investors
in the Social Economy
GSEF member



Dominique Lesaffre
Solidarity finance advisor
France



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

Access to appropriate finance remains a major challenge for SSE, especially in emerging countries. This group is working to identify innovative models of solidarity financial intermediation, aligned with SSE values.

As a result of **a partnership between GSEF and FAIR, a study** funded by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is underway to highlight concrete approaches driven by a variety of actors. It explores governance mechanisms, partnership models, value distribution, and the sustainability conditions of these mechanisms. Conceived as a practical and strategic tool, the study targets financial institutions, public decision-makers, and practitioners. It will be presented at the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum, complementing the work of the UNTFSSSE to strengthen international convergence in favor of finance serving the SSE.





Working group

The impact of SSE public policies on achieving the SDGs – Research

Co-lead by :



Marguerite Mendell
Karl Polanyi Institute - Concordia University
Quebec, Canada
GSEF Advisory Committee member



Timothée Duverger
Chaire Territoires de l'ESS - Sciences Po Bordeaux
Bordeaux, France

This group explores the links between public action and systemic transformations through the lens of SSE.

In 2024, the group launched an international call for contributions to document concrete experiences across various territories. Result: over 40 proposals received and reviewed by a reading committee composed of experts from the group. A selection of case studies was finalized at the end of the year, offering a rich panorama of the dynamics underway.

In 2025, these texts will undergo a rigorous editorial process ahead of their **joint publication at the Bordeaux GSEF2025 Forum**. This unique tool aims to support the institutional recognition of SSE within public policies contributing to the SDGs.



Working group

Responsible Public Procurement

Co-lead by :



REMCES
Network of Cameroon Mayors for SSE
Cameroon
GSEF Steering Committee member



CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Regional SSE Chamber
Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France
GSEF Co-President



3AR
Network of Responsible Public
Buyers of Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France



Jean Luc Bodson
Expert in Responsible Public Procurement
Belgium

Local governments have a key role to play in turning public procurement into a lever for social, environmental, and economic transformation serving the SSE. This inter-continental working group maps out good practices, legal frameworks, and inspiring local initiatives.

Its objective? To feed international advocacy, equip public authorities, facilitate access to public contracts for SSE stakeholders, and disseminate a shared culture of responsible procurement. It supports local and international dynamics through active participation in various events (BEE Forum, FORA'ESS, Local Economic Development Forum in Seville...).

A comparative study will be published at the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum, enriched with practical examples and an actionable tool for local adaptation.



The GSEF SSE Youth Hub



Since its creation in 2013, the GSEF has consistently recognized the importance of youth engagement in the Social and Solidarity Economy. Through international events, impactful advocacy, and structured continental dynamics, the GSEF highlights the key role played by youth in driving social, economic, and environmental transitions.

The GSEF SSE Youth Hub is an international space for convergence that mobilizes, connects, and uplifts young people from all over the world around the SSE, promoting it as a lever for social, ecological, and democratic transformation.

At the GSEF2023 General Assembly in Dakar, and following the call made during the SSE Youth Pre-Forum, the creation of the SSE Youth Hub was formally adopted to recognize youth as central actors in scaling up the SSE.

This hub articulates its action around **three pillars**:

1 AWARENESS

Promoting SSE values among young people and strengthen the SSE Youth community

2 ADVOCACY

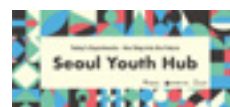
Valuing their role as agents of just transitions

3 SUPPORT

Empowering youth-led projects through platforms, incubators, and cooperatives

The SSE Youth Hub is co-led by GSEF members on each continent, who define continental action levers to advance these three pillars.

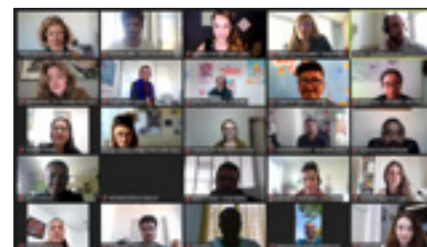
- ▶ Africa: ABEWE (Ivory Coast)
- ▶ North America: Youth Wing of the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale (Québec)
- ▶ Latin America & Caribbean: INAES – Instituto Nacional de la Economía Social (Mexico)
- ▶ Asia: Seoul Youth Hub (South Korea)
- ▶ Europe: Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region (France)



Official launch

The SSE Youth Hub was officially launched on April 12, 2024, during a **webinar** gathering more than 150 participants from 37 countries across 5 continents.

This launch embodies both the culmination of a historic commitment by the GSEF to youth, and the beginning of a new dynamic: a structured space for international cooperation, designed to coordinate youth-led initiatives, strengthen their visibility, and assert their driving role in the future of the SSE.



[Replay](#)

To learn more about the history of the GSEF youth dynamic and follow the activities of the SSE Youth Hub: [The SSE Youth Hub](#) • [DakarGSEF2023 Youth & SSE Pre-Forum](#) • [GSEF Instagram](#)

See the SSE Youth Declarations on page 20



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SSE YOUTH HUB ACROSS CONTINENTS

AFRICA



2nd Edition of the Young Leaders Forum on SSE

October 29–31 – Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast

The second edition of the Young Leaders Forum on SSE brought together over 400 participants from 17 countries across Africa, Europe, North America, and Latin America. Its objective was to strengthen a pan-African community committed to the SSE. The event was co-organized by ARDCI (Assembly of Regions and Districts of Ivory Coast), Abewe, and the GSEF SSE Youth Hub, in partnership with local and international stakeholders.

The discussions led to a series of structural recommendations around four main priorities:

- ▶ a favorable legislative framework for youth-led SSE initiatives ;
- ▶ incentive measures (support funds, access to public procurement) ;
- ▶ capacity building and the creation of an African network of incubators ;
- ▶ stronger recognition of SSE through data, volunteering, and the SSE Youth Initiative Booklet, showcasing 40 innovative projects led by young people from 8 countries.

[Yamoussoukro Resolutions](#) • [SSE Youth Initiative Booklet](#) • [Learn more about the Young Leaders Forum on SSE](#)



Supporting the SSE Youth Hub in Africa



Fabrice Adelphe Balou, a long-standing GSEF member since 2017 and a key figure in the promotion of SSE in Africa, is a major driving force behind this dynamic. In Ivory Coast, his advocacy contributed to drafting the national SSE law, set to be adopted in 2025. He organized the first Young Leaders Forum on SSE in Grand-Bassam in 2021, mobilized youth focal points to ensure the active participation of young people from several countries in DakarGSEF2023, and coordinated the second edition of the Young Leaders Forum in Yamoussoukro. Marked by strong institutional recognition, the event also provided the opportunity to establish strategic partnerships, notably with the signing of MoUs with the ARDCI and France Volontaires. Currently serving as Africa Lead of the SSE Youth Hub within the GSEF, through the organization ABEWE, he leads a dynamic network of 17 national Youth Focal Points, implements the recommendations issued from the Forum, and is preparing the third edition of the Young Leaders Forum on SSE to be held in 2026 in DRC.

ASIA



The GSEF took part in the Ecopeace Forum (DMZ Open Festival, South Korea) at the invitation of its member NEXT-G, the Korean youth network dedicated to SSE. The youth social entrepreneurs panel highlighted the key role of young people in addressing ecological and social crises, and emphasized the importance of local and international cooperation. These exchanges helped strengthen the mobilization around the SSE Youth Hub in Asia on the road to BordeauxGSEF2025. [Learn more](#)

LAC



**INAES Webinar
JovenESS LAC
Rumbo a BordeauxGSEF2025**

The SSE Youth dynamic in Latin America was showcased during a webinar held on September 26, which gave the floor to young people actively engaged in the Social and Solidarity Economy. This gathering allowed them to voice their expectations for the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum. Several strong priorities emerged: training, mental health, technological innovation, agroecology, fiscal justice, recognition of traditional knowledge, political participation, and the co-construction of public policies.

The GSEF SSE Youth Declarations

Global Youth Camp for SSE – Seoul 2017

Read the declaration



At the initiative of GSEF, 100 young people from 25 countries laid the foundation for a global movement toward an economy that serves both people and the planet. This first declaration asserted that SSE is a concrete lever for achieving the SDGs, transforming territories, and renewing economic democracy. Participants championed a vision based on cooperation, solidarity, equality, and shared governance.

In response to dominant models, they called for ambitious alternatives driven by youth. SSE was embraced as a space of engagement and collective action, where everyone can contribute to a fairer society. The declaration emphasized the need to create spaces for empowerment, knowledge sharing, and collective leadership.

Four priorities were highlighted: decent work as a tool for emancipation; local communities built on collective action; housing as a pillar of sustainable human development; and solidarity finance rooted in social justice.

The message was clear: “Just do it and smile.” The change starts here, with us.

BilbaoGSEF2018

In Bilbao, youth called for SSE to become a truly inclusive space, where their voices are heard, acknowledged, and structurally integrated. Faced with crises and precarity, young people affirmed that decent work is a gateway to a more equal and solidarity-based economy. They promoted a vision grounded in participation, collaboration, social justice, and environmental impact.

They firmly rejected symbolic participation and called for meaningful involvement in the governance of SSE events, networks, and structures. The challenge is not about “talking about youth,” but making space for a generation that is active, legitimate, and committed.

Three levers were proposed: set a clear participation goal of at least 35% of under-35s in international events; support the creation of an international youth network for SSE; and ensure active representation of youth from the Global South, too often excluded from global dynamics.

Youth are ready to build the future of SSE alongside historic actors. The time for structured and contributing youth has come.

Read the declaration



Read the declaration



With over 1,000 young people from 25 countries taking part, youth from Latin America and around the world affirmed the centrality of SSE for achieving the SDGs. Driven by a spirit of convergence, the declaration called for increased visibility of SSE, recognized it as a space for collective action, and advocated for embedding its principles in education and public policies.

Young people defended an SSE that is localized, inclusive, cooperative, and intergenerational. They called for the creation of an independent international youth network and the expansion of spaces for training, dialogue, and knowledge sharing.

Three main areas of work were identified: raising the visibility of SSE through media, education, and civic mobilization ; building community around cooperation, self-management of knowledge and the circular economy ; and fully integrating SSE into youth policies aligned with the SDGs.

Their powerful conclusion: SSE is a lever for social and climate transformation. Youth are committed to it so that “no one is left behind.”

MexicoGSEF2021

DakarGSEF2023

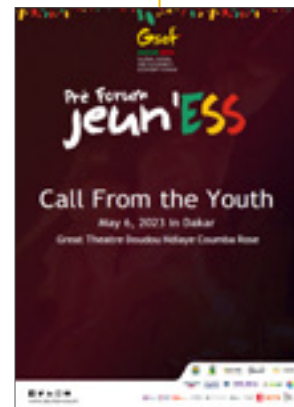
At the close of the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum of the 6th edition of the Global Forum on SSE in Dakar, which brought together 3,000 people from over 30 countries, youth from Africa and beyond issued a powerful call : SSE entrepreneurship means transforming the world. Organized by and for youth, this gathering highlighted initiatives, created spaces for expression, and collectively built a political advocacy.

Young people called for an SSE centered on life, solidarity and sustainability, and asked for a change of scale. To achieve this, they urged governments, GSEF, and partners to co-build a fairer, more inclusive, and more accessible ecosystem.

Among the priorities raised:

- ▶ Create a support fund for youth projects, coordinated by a permanent SSE Youth Commission ;
- ▶ Establish the SSE Youth Hub and integrate youth into SSE public policies ;
- ▶ Enhance youth mobility, strengthen training, and develop tailored financial tools.

[Read the declaration](#)



Their strong conclusion: youth want to be part of the decision-making process, both locally and in international institutions. They called for intergenerational justice and gender equality to be treated as central and cross-cutting priorities at future Forums.

*Closing Plenary of DakarGSEF2023
May 6, 2023 – Grand Théâtre National, Dakar*

Bordeaux GSEF2025

On track to BordeauxGSEF2025

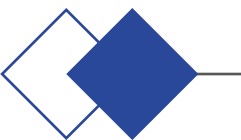
As we head toward the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum, the year 2024 has laid the groundwork for an ambitious and international youth mobilization. In line with the four historic youth declarations since 2017, a structured advocacy process is now underway on each continent. Its objective is to make the voices of youth heard, reflecting the diversity of lived experiences across the globe, and rooted in the local challenges, national frameworks, and territorial dynamics of the SSE.

Each continent is leading its own independent process of mobilization and consultation. These approaches, embedded in African, Latin American, Asian, North American, and European contexts, aim to build collective advocacy led by and for youth, with messages grounded in their concrete realities. They ensure that youth voices are representative, diverse, and deeply rooted in their territories.

To strengthen global coordination, a new International Solidarity Volunteer (VSI) will join the GSEF Secretariat team in early 2025. A European application has also been submitted to support youth mobility across Europe, and several funding proposals have been developed to ensure inclusive and equitable participation of youth from all continents at the Forum.

This process will culminate in Bordeaux with a powerful political and symbolic moment : youth from around the world will come together to share their demands, present their proposals, and co-construct an **International Youth Declaration for SSE**. This declaration will be presented during the official closing ceremony, affirming that youth is not a marginal theme, but a cross-cutting, collective, and structuring force for transforming the economy—today and into the future.

bordeauxgsef2025.org



Since its creation, the GSEF has promoted the values and potential of the SSE at the global level. Through its international advocacy efforts, the GSEF has contributed to the historic momentum for the recognition of SSE within the international agenda.

In 2024, the GSEF continued its advocacy towards States and local governments, calling for ambitious public policies, and will pursue its support for the development of enabling ecosystems for SSE across the world.

The GSEF consistently demonstrates that SSE is a tool for democracy in territorial development—at the heart of responses to social needs, protection, and the fight against exclusion and poverty. SSE fosters long-term capacities for cooperation and citizen-led transitions, rooted in local territories and driven by civil society.

The GSEF continues to expand its influence and collaboration with international institutions and organizations.

For years, the GSEF has worked closely with numerous international, regional, and national SSE networks, as well as global 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 Co-operation and Development (OECD), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), to promote the international recognition of SSE. In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution entitled “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development”, with 175 votes in favor. The text reaffirms the importance of SSE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive and resilient growth.

As an observer of the UNTFSE, the GSEF welcomes the adoption of this resolution and expresses its gratitude to the sponsoring countries. The resolution explicitly mentions BordeauxGSEF2025, the upcoming Global SSE Forum, as a key international milestone in support of its implementation.



International
Labour
Organization



UN

Inter-Agency Task Force on
Social and Solidarity Economy

The GSEF has been an active observer of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE) since 2017 and takes part in all of its meetings, held every two months via videoconference. As of November 2023, the Task Force included 17 members (UN agencies and the OECD) and 13 observers.

As a reminder, the UNTFSE was established in 2013 in response to growing concern within the United Nations system about the need to rethink development in the wake of multiple global crises and in the context of the post-2015 development framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



First Anniversary of the United Nations Resolution on the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals

The GSEF marked the first anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution recognizing the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals — adopted on April 18, 2023 — by launching a dedicated social media campaign.

GSEF political leaders spoke out to highlight the importance of this landmark resolution and to share how they are putting it into practice at their level.

Watch interviews with GSEF members: [#1YearSSEUNResolution GSEF](#)

- ▶ Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux (France)
- ▶ Stéphane Montuzet, President of the Regional SSE Chamber of Nouvelle-Aquitaine (France)
- ▶ Christine Bost, President of Bordeaux Métropole (France)
- ▶ Luc Rabouin, Borough Mayor of Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal (Québec, Canada)
- ▶ Béatrice Alain, General Director of the Chantier de l'Economie Sociale (Québec, Canada)
- ▶ Mamie Awou Dieng Lo, Deputy Mayor of Dakar in charge of SSE (Senegal)
- ▶ Malick Diop, Coordinator of the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal (Senegal)
- ▶ Monique Ayi, Mayor of Dzing and President of REMCESS - Cameroun Mayors' Network for SSE (Cameroon)
- ▶ Me-Kyung Kim, Mayor of Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul, and President of SSEGOV (Korea)
- ▶ Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, Director of INAES - National Institute of Social Economy (Mexico)
- ▶ Alain Rousset, President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council (France)
- ▶ Jean-Luc Gleyze, President of the Gironde Department (France)
- ▶ Bénédicte Sohet, Secretary General of ConcertES (Belgium)
- ▶ Christie Morreale, Vice-president of the Walloon Government and Minister for Social Economy (Belgium)





The GSEF is expanding its presence and advocacy with networks of cities and local governments: UCLG et World Forum of Local Economic Development

The GSEF has continued its advocacy with networks of cities and local governments to make SSE a priority in local public policies and action plans. To this end, the GSEF reinvests in spaces for reflection and exchanges among local governments on transitions and local economic development.

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

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

The GSEF has established a strong brand image in promoting and supporting the development of local and regional ecosystems as part of the overall Social and Solidarity Economy strategy. The added value of the GSEF, compared to other networks, lies in its emphasis and understanding of the necessity for continuous partnership and dialogue between civil society and municipal governments, and in its ecosystem approach.

Panels of mayors and other local government representatives are organized at each Global Forum of the GSEF. These political highlights are anticipated moments where elected officials share their commitments to support the development of SSE.

Cities and local governments in general are eager to play an active role in implementing the SDGs and measuring the results of their public policies against the SDGs. Decentralization reflects different realities from country to country and has transferred responsibilities to local authorities.

The development and scaling up of SSE will only be possible with the engagement of local governments.

Secretariat of the International Coalition of the Social and Solidarity Economy

In 2024, the GSEF continued to serve as the Secretariat of the International Coalition of the Social and Solidarity Economy (ICSSE).

Formed in 2021, the Coalition brings together five global SSE networks to strengthen international advocacy and ensure the voice of SSE actors is heard in global debates.

The Coalition held five regular meetings in 2024.





The GSEF is expanding into new spheres of influence: URBAN 20 in Rio - G20

In August 2024, the GSEF applied to organize an SSE conference during URBAN 20, organized by UCLG and C40, ahead of the G20 summit.

This application followed the declaration of the G20 Ministers of Labour and Employment in July 2024 in Fortaleza. The declaration repeatedly highlights the Social and Solidarity Economy as a key tool to create decent jobs and commits their countries to promoting public policies that support SSE.



« [...] 5. We need to strengthen our efforts to foster social inclusion, eradicate multidimensional poverty and address working poverty with a focus on the promotion of quality jobs and decent work, recognizing that the social and solidarity economy could play an important role in generating quality employment, promoting fair working conditions and environmental sustainability with job creation in just transition processes.

6. We stress the importance of strategies to create and promote decent work and deliver effective labour market policies, such as skills development, access to training and lifelong learning and job matching, aligned with the skills needs and demands of the economy and in consultation with social partners. Similarly, we will promote policies that foster the SSE. »

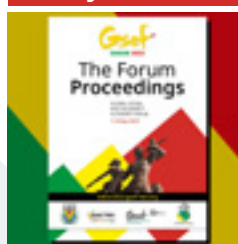
[Read the Declaration](#)

The GSEF has advocated for the development of ambitious public policies with states and local governments: 25 countries have adopted an overall legal framework to support the development of SSE actors. Major progress could therefore be made quickly with the commitment of G20 countries to enable the scaling up of SSE and to support the development of SSE-friendly ecosystems at the global level. The session was composed of SSE experts, local governments, and practitioners actively engaged in the development of SSE (impact of their practices, projects, and public policies on promoting SSE ecosystems).



One year of GSEF

JANUARY 18



DakarGSEF2023

Publication

Proceedings of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum – Dissemination Campaign

After several months of compilation, editing, and translation, GSEF published the official Proceedings of the 6th edition of the Global SSE Forum, DakarGSEF2023.

Objectives: to highlight the experiences shared during sessions and workshops, to capture the political moments, and to encourage continuation of the discussions initiated in Dakar.

The release was accompanied by a months-long social media campaign showcasing the Forum's seven main themes, the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, the Women's Day for SSE, and the political plenaries.

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

JANUARY 30



Europe

BordeauxGSEF2025

Niort, France

National Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation

The GSEF participated in the National Forum on SSE in France, co-organized by CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region. This edition marked the 10th anniversary of the French SSE Law, with a strong call to build a unified political voice to scale up SSE.

GSEF co-led the closing plenary alongside its co-presidents (CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine and the City of Bordeaux), stressing the urgency of supporting local and national authorities in implementing international recommendations adopted over the past three years. Key members and partners were also present: ConcertES, Social Economy Europe, ESS Forum International, the OECD, and the European Commission.

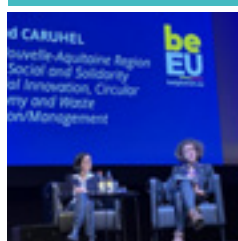
Another key moment was the roundtable on international recognition of SSE, featuring SENS Benin, CRESS Mayotte, and ESS-France Overseas, bridging global perspectives with concrete local actions.

The event saw strong international mobilization, with delegations from Burkina Faso, Belgium, Cameroon, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Madagascar, Quebec, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Ivory Coast. GSEF also reunited with numerous members and allies: the Ivorian SSE Network (RIESS), L'Envol, the Zoodo Action & Solidarity Network (RÉZAS), and the RTES Network. A bilateral meeting between the Moroccan region of Souss Massa and Nouvelle-Aquitaine helped strengthen dialogue on local SSE policies.

Lastly, a workshop dedicated to BordeauxGSEF2025 marked the launch of the local dynamic, setting the tone for a Forum that values interculturality and broad stakeholder engagement.

[Le magazine du Forum](#) • [Learn more about the event](#)

FEBRUARY 16



Europe

Advocacy

Liège, Belgium

European Conference on the Social Economy

For the first time, 22 European governments were represented at the European Conference on the Social Economy, held in Liège as part of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The result: an ambitious roadmap and 25 recommendations to support the implementation of national SSE strategies in EU countries.

[Discover the roadmap](#)

FEBRUARY 27-29



Africa

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Regional Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy in Mauritania

Contributing to the establishment of a strong regional dynamic for SSE in West Africa, this first edition of the Regional Forum on SSE, organized by the NGO Actions, brought together several African members of GSEF: the City of Dakar, the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal, and the Ivorian Network of SSE.

APRIL 12



SSE Youth Hub

Webinar

Official Launch of the GSEF SSE Youth Hub

Created following the GSEF General Assembly of May 5, 2023 in Dakar, the SSE Youth Hub was officially launched during a webinar that gathered over 150 participants from around the world. The copilots reflected on the history of youth inclusion within the GSEF, before presenting the ambitions and priority work areas of the Youth Hub on each continent, and reaffirming the path toward BordeauxGSEF2025, where youth will take center stage through a coordinated intercontinental advocacy.

[Replay of the launch webinar](#) • [Learn more about the SSE Youth Hub](#) • [More on the SSE Youth Hub on page 24](#)

APRIL 18



Advocacy

Campaign

Anniversary of the United Nations Resolution on SSE — #1yearSSEUNResolution

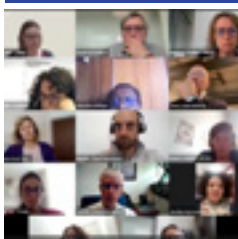
On the first anniversary of the historic UN General Assembly resolution recognizing the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, GSEF mobilized alongside the UNTFSSSE (United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE). An international webinar brought together members and observers to review progress and launch a joint communication campaign highlighting SSE as a driver of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development.

In parallel, GSEF co-signed a press release with its partners in the International Coalition on SSE (ICSSE) calling on UN member states to accelerate the implementation of the resolution. The text reaffirmed three key priorities : positioning SSE as a lever for achieving the SDGs, strengthening dedicated public policies and legal frameworks, and providing the UNTFSSSE with the necessary means to support this implementation.

GSEF also launched a campaign involving its political leaders, inviting them to speak on the local impact of the resolution. Through a series of inspiring testimonials, co-presidents and members of the network reaffirmed their commitment to turning this international progress into concrete action in their territories. A major visibility moment to showcase the diversity of local approaches to implementing the resolution.

[Replay of the UNTFSSSE webinar](#) • [ICSSE press release](#) • [GSEF campaign](#) • [More on page 29](#)

MAY 22



BordeauxGSEF2025

Webinar

First Meeting of the Scientific Committee of BordeauxGSEF2025

The Scientific Committee of the upcoming Global SSE Forum BordeauxGSEF2025 met for the first time to lay the foundation for the call for contributions.

Chaired by Timothée Duverger, the committee brings together national and international researchers and practitioners.

Its objective: to co-construct a Forum with SSE stakeholders from around the world, based on a central theme : « SSE as a condition for a just transition toward resilient territories and the well-being of their inhabitants ».

[Scientific Committee of BordeauxGSEF2025](#) • [More on BordeauxGSEF2025 on page 41](#)

MAY 29 - JUNE 1ST



Africa

Advocacy

SSE Youth Hub

WG Public procurement

Yaoundé, Cameroon

First Edition of FORA'ESS – The African Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy

The GSEF co-organized the first edition of FORA'ESS, alongside the Cameroonian Ministry for SMEs, Social Economy and Handicrafts, REMCESS, PFAC, and RENESS. born from the dynamic launched at #DakarGSEF2023. Hosted in Yaoundé, the event brought together over 1,000 participants from 30 African countries, with strong involvement from governments and local authorities.

The GSEF and its members, notably REMCESS and the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal, played a central role in organizing the forum, coordinating strategic panels, and facilitating workshops on public policies, public procurement, and youth and women entrepreneurship.

FORA'ESS now stands as a key continental event for SSE in Africa, alternating with the Global Forums of the GSEF

[Final Declaration of FORA'ESS](#) • [FORA'ESS Resolution](#) • [Declaration of local authorities](#)

[Youth Pre-Forum Summary](#) • [More on FORA'ESS on page 14](#)

One year of GSEF

JUNE 7



LAC

Bordeaux, France

The GSEF welcomes elected officials from the City of Maricá to Bordeaux

At the initiative of the GSEF, a delegation of elected officials from the City of Maricá in Brazil – a pioneer in basic income and local currency – was welcomed to Bordeaux, GSEF's co-president city, as part of a European tour focused on cooperation in inclusive economic development.

Accompanied by the GSEF Secretariat, the delegation met with officials from Bordeaux Metropole, the City of Bordeaux, and the Gironde Department, as well as with local SSE stakeholders. Discussions focused on local currency policies, ecological transition, and food social security.

This key moment helped lay the groundwork for strengthened cooperation between Maricá and local authorities in the Gironde, and opened perspectives for Maricá's membership in GSEF, as well as its potential leadership role in mobilizing Brazilian cities for upcoming editions of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum.

[More information](#)

JUNE 10 - 11



LAC

Lima, Peru

Lima Summit: SDGs against inequalities

A summit of Latin American cities on the Sustainable Development Goals in the fight against inequalities was held on June 10 and 11. Organized by the Federation of Free Municipalities of Peru (FEMULP), GSEF was represented by Humberto Cerdio from the National Institute of Social Economy of Mexico, GSEF's continental co-president for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

[Replay](#)

JUNE 12-13



Europe Advocacy

Paris, France

National Congress on the Social and Solidarity Economy in France

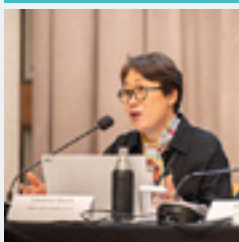
The GSEF took part in the international plenary of the Congress organized by ESS France, marking the 10th anniversary of the French law defining SSE.

Stéphane Montuzet, GSEF co-president, called for continental strategies tailored to local realities and for stronger support to young project leaders.

Two key texts were adopted: a political resolution and a manifesto in view of the upcoming national SSE strategy.

[Resolution](#) • [Manifesto](#) • [Replay](#)

JUNE 18-19



Asia Advocacy

Bangkok, Thailand

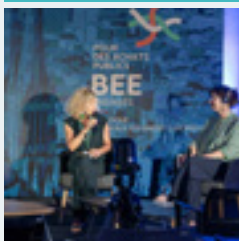
ILO Workshop: SSE for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia

Laurence Kwark, member of GSEF's Advisory Committee and former Secretary General of the network, took part in a roundtable during the regional workshop of the International Labour Organization: « SSE for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia ».

She emphasized that ILO and UN resolutions reinforce the legitimacy of SSE as a development model. Despite limited institutional recognition, grassroots initiatives are already very active, and local governments have a key role to play in structuring them.

[Replay](#)

JUNE 27



Europe
WG Public Procurement

Bordeaux, France

BEE Conference – Bordeaux European Exchanges

The GSEF and the co-pilots of its working group on responsible public procurement – Jean-Luc Bodson, 3AR, and CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine – took part in the BEE Conference – Bordeaux European Exchanges – organized by UGAP, the City of Bordeaux, and Bordeaux Metropole.

The GSEF contributed to a session alongside Sarah McKinley of The Democracy Collaborative, focusing on the Community Wealth Building approach, a model for reimagining local economies through public procurement, proven in Preston (UK).

[Replay of the session](#)

JULY 29



Publication

GSEF News July 2024 – The return of the GSEF Newsletter

GSEF relaunched its newsletter, aimed at members, partners, and SSE stakeholders, to highlight inspiring international projects. This new edition offers an overview of ongoing work, notably on continental dynamics, youth, SSE financing, responsible public procurement, and the impact of public SSE policies.

[Read GSEF News July 2024](#)

JULY 31



BordeauxGSEF2025

Call for contributions

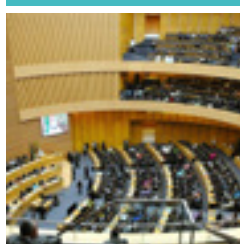
Opening of the call for contributions for BordeauxGSEF2025

SSE stakeholders, local governments, partners, and institutions from around the world were invited to submit their contributions to shape the program of the 7th Global SSE Forum of GSEF, around the central theme: « SSE as a condition for a just transition toward resilient territories and the well-being of their inhabitants », divided into 7 thematic pillars: just transition, financing, co-construction and innovation in public policy, inclusive prosperity, decent work, empowerment, foresight and research.

The call sparked unprecedented interest, with 850 proposals submitted by organizations from five continents before the deadline on December 20. A success that promises an event rich in the exchange of experiences and expertises.

[BordeauxGSEF2025 Program](#) • [More on BordeauxGSEF2025 on page 41](#)

AUGUST 2ND



Africa Advocacy

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

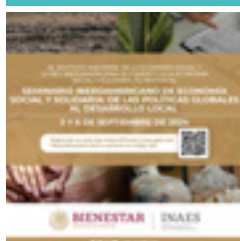
A ten-year SSE strategy for the African Union

The member states of the African Union adopted a ten-year strategy on SSE and its implementation plan for the period 2023-2032.

This adoption strengthens the recognition of SSE on the continent and supports the establishment of enabling frameworks for the development of SSE initiatives, particularly to promote decent work and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Learn more](#)

SEPTEMBER 5 - 6



LAC Advocacy

Webinar

Ibero-American Seminar on the Social and Solidarity Economy

The GSEF participated in the Ibero-American Seminar on the SSE, organized by its continental co-president INAES Mexico in partnership with RIFESS, the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy, who brings together national government institutions from various Latin American countries, Spain and Portugal, that are responsible for promoting SSE in their territories.

The event aimed to strengthen cooperation between public institutions around global policies that support sustainable and inclusive local development. It brought together high-level speakers from national and international institutions and was broadcast live to ensure wide reach.

[Learn more](#) • [Replay](#)

SEPTEMBER 17



WG Finance

Paris, France

16th edition of the Convergences World Forum

The GSEF and INAISE, co-pilots of its working group on financing SSE, co-organized a round-table with FAIR – Label Finance, entitled: « Financing SSE internationally: where are the impact investors? ». The session focused on SSE financing solutions, with particular attention to the African continent..

[Best of the Forum](#)

One year of GSEF

SEPTEMBER 24 - 25



Advocacy

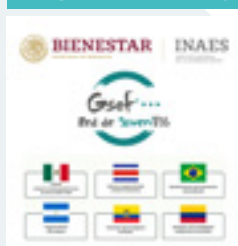
Malmö, Sweden – Copenhagen, Denmark

OECD Local Development Forum: “Building bridges, shaping tomorrow”

The GSEF participated in the OECD Local Development Forum. Discussions and debates among local & national government and stakeholders highlighted the importance of cross-border cooperation in sharing experiences, the crucial role of local leadership in driving transitions, the centrality of youth in current and future transformations, the need to provide decent employment opportunities in particular for young people, and the importance of engaging communities in the design and implementation of local economic development plans.

[Highlights](#) • [Replay](#)

SEPTEMBRE 26



LAC SSE Youth Hub

Webinar

Mobilizing Youth from Latin America and the Caribbean for BordeauxGSEF2025

As part of its continental co-presidency of the network and co-pilots role in the GSEF SSE Youth Hub, INAES organized a webinar for Latin American and Caribbean youth to present BordeauxGSEF2025, the upcoming Global SSE Forum, and to encourage young people to take part.

SEPTEMBER 27



Europe Advocacy

Dublin, Ireland

Annual Conference of FEBEA: “Strength in unity”

Stéphane Montuzet, GSEF co-president on behalf of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, took part in the annual conference of FEBEA, the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers, held under the theme “Strength in unity.” FEBEA was among the new members to join GSEF in 2024.

[Learn more](#)

SEPTEMBER 27



Africa Advocacy

Johannesburg, South Africa

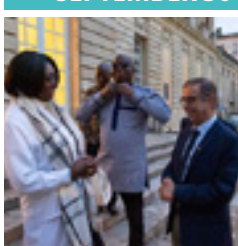
Launch of the African Cooperative Center by the African Union (AU)

Malick Diop, GSEF's continental co-president for Africa representing the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal, took part in this major milestone for SSE, recognized as an innovative tool to advance social welfare in Africa. This launch builds on the African Union's ten-year strategy on SSE (2023–2032).

The event gathered cooperatives from AU member states, as well as representatives from governments, the ILO, and other international organizations.

[Replay](#)

SEPTEMBER 30



Advocacy

Bordeaux, France

Meeting of the Economic Transitions Commission of the AIMF

The GSEF and CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine took part in the meeting of this key commission of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), chaired by the City of Bordeaux. Delegations from Cotonou, Douala, Yaoundé, Abidjan, Marrakech, Casablanca, Nouakchott, Oti, and Huê gathered for two days to discuss tools and mechanisms to drive socio-economic and environmental transitions at the local level: complementary local currencies, low-tech approaches, and Territorial Corporate Responsibility.

Monique Ayi, President of REMCESS and long-standing member of GSEF, also shared her experience on governance and the management of the communal forest of Dzeng.

This meeting was also an opportunity to invite mayors and local actors to take part in the upcoming Global Forum, which makes the issue of just transitions at the heart of its program.

[Learn more about the Economic Transitions Commission](#)

OCTOBER 16 - 18



LAC Research

San José, Costa Rica

34th International Congress of CIRIEC

The GSEF took part in the 34th International Congress of CIRIEC (International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy), which focused on the theme: "What strategies for territorial and human development?"

CIRIEC, a key partner of GSEF, will host its 10th International Research Conference on Social Economy from October 27 to 29, 2025 in Bordeaux, the same week as the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum.

[Learn more about CIRIEC](#) • [10th International Research Conference on Social Economy, Bordeaux 2025](#)

OCTOBER 18



Advocacy

Publication

UN Secretary-General's Report on the Social and Solidarity Economy

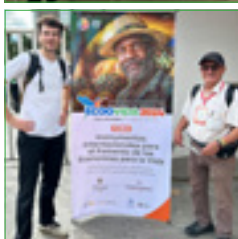
During a hybrid event organized by UNTFSSSE, entitled "Unlocking the full potential of the SSE for sustainable development," the report of the United Nations Secretary-General entitled "Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development" was presented, in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 77/281.

This report highlights the strategic role of SSE in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

On this occasion, SSEGOV, GSEF's continental co-president for Asia, spoke on behalf of local governments, emphasizing their central role in co-constructing SSE public policies. The event was also an opportunity to highlight the upcoming BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum as the next key milestone for following up on this global dynamic.

[Replay](#) • [Read the report](#)

OCTOBER 22 - 26



LAC Advocacy

Cali, Colombia

The GSEF at COP16 Biodiversity and ECOVIDA2024: SSE, an economy for life

The GSEF and its members took part in the 16th United Nations Conference on Biodiversity (COP16).

Céline Papin, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux, spoke at a panel on "Women and biodiversity: cultivating better trade opportunities," presenting Bordeaux's SSE policies supporting women's employment and the city's international commitment through GSEF, alongside our partner RIPESS.

In parallel, GSEF opened the ECOVIDA2024 event – Economies for Life – by presenting its international advocacy strategy alongside major global SSE networks. It participated in the "International Instruments" forum at the Javeriana University of Cali, where it advocated for the concrete implementation of the UN resolution on SSE.

The Cooperative University of Colombia, a GSEF member, hosted a forum on solidarity education on its campus, emphasizing the central role of shared knowledge in economic transformation.

These gatherings strengthened cooperation between international networks and movements, united around the signing of the International Pact of Economies for Life.

[International Pact of Economies for Life](#) • More on COP16 and ECOVIDA on page 20

OCTOBER 29 - 31



Africa
SSE Youth Hub

Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast

2nd Young Leaders Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy

Through the GSEF SSE Youth Hub and the commitment of its co-pilot Fabrice Adelphe Balou, GSEF co-organized, alongside ARDCI and Abewe, the 2nd edition of the Young Leaders Forum on SSE. The event brought together young entrepreneurs, public institutions, financial partners, and SSE networks to promote cooperative entrepreneurship and social innovation.

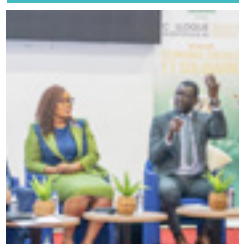
Political sessions, training workshops, a pitch competition, and the signing of a structuring agreement between GSEF and ARDCI shaped these three days.

40 projects from 8 countries were featured in an Initiative Booklet, and three winners will represent Africa at the Global SSE Forum in Bordeaux in 2025. This Forum marks a decisive step in the structuring of pan-African support for SSE by and for young people.

[Yamoussoukro Resolutions](#) • [SSE Youth Initiative Booklet](#) • More on the Young Leaders Forum on page 25

One year of GSEF

NOVEMBER 4 - 5



Africa

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Scientific Symposium on the Social and Solidarity Economy in Africa

The Scientific Symposium on the Social and Solidarity Economy, organized by the Think Tank Africa Perspectives Institute (API), marked a key milestone for SSE in Africa. A continent-wide scientific event, it brought together 840 participants from 13 countries, notably thanks to the commitment of RIESS - the Ivorian Network of SSE, a member of the GSEF. The GSEF was represented by its continental co-president for Africa, Malick Diop, from the Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal, and by its Secretary General, Aude Saldana.

The symposium concluded with the adoption of a declaration for the creation of a Scientific Observatory on SSE in Africa (a recommendation from the 1st FORA'ESS in Yaoundé), an essential tool to formalize and highlight solidarity-based practices rooted in African societies.

NOVEMBER 1ST - 8



Asia SSE Youth Hub

Seoul, South Korea

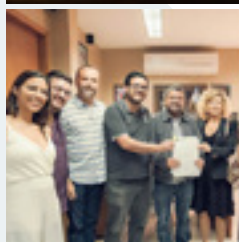
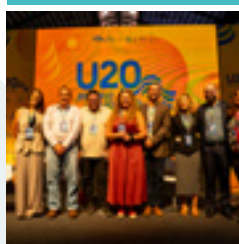
GSEF Mission in Korea: Partner Mobilization and Youth Engagement

The GSEF carried out a strategic mission in South Korea, marked by strong mobilization during the National SSE Congress. Alongside the Seoul Metropolitan Government, SSEGOV, the SVS Fund, and the Seoul Social Economy Network, GSEF strengthened the historic alliances initiated in Seoul, aiming for greater Korean participation in the Global SSE Forum in Bordeaux in 2025. Discussions with Gyeonggi Province highlighted the role of local governments in shaping ambitious local SSE policies.

Invited by its members, the Korean youth network NEXT-G, GSEF also took part in the Ecopeace Forum during the DMZ Festival. The mission emphasized the central role of youth in creating solutions to ecological and social crises, the occasion to explore new avenues for cooperation with ICYN-AP, MTA World, Slow Food Youth Network, and NEXT-G. This mission further reinforces GSEF's global youth engagement ahead of BordeauxGSEF2025.

[Learn more](#)

NOVEMBER 12 - 24



LAC Advocacy

Maricá, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The GSEF in Brazil: New Prospects for Cooperation around SSE

The GSEF conducted a ten-day mission to Brazil, centered around institutional meetings in Maricá, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo. In Maricá, the signing of a letter of intent with the municipality marked a key milestone in the city's upcoming membership in GSEF. Meaningful exchanges with CODEMAR and Banco Mumbuca provided insights into local initiatives in complementary local currency, urban agriculture, food security, and circular economy.

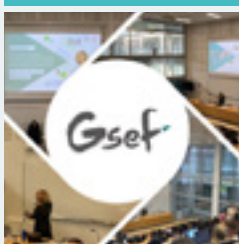
In Rio, as part of the Urban 20 summit held ahead of the G20, GSEF gave voice to SSE by co-organizing an official session dedicated to local SSE policies. This session brought together Brazilian institutional stakeholders, researchers, and cooperative representatives to showcase SSE solutions to face social and environmental challenges.

In São Paulo, meetings with the Paul Singer Institute, UNISOL, and the metalworkers' union opened new avenues for cooperation, particularly in preparation for the National SSE Forum in Brazil scheduled for 2025.

The momentum driven by the city of Maricá and the support expressed by several Brazilian networks offer promising prospects for a potential bid to host the GSEF Global Forum in 2027.

More on the GSEF mission in Brazil on page 20

NOVEMBER 26



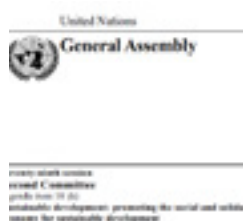
Awareness

Bordeaux, France

Conference at IAE Bordeaux

IAE Bordeaux, a university school of management, hosted GSEF for a conference entitled "International Recognition of the SSE: An Economy Committed to Achieving the SDGs." On this occasion, Aude Saldana, Secretary General of GSEF, presented SSE as an innovative economic model in response to today's social, environmental, and economic challenges. The event raised awareness among students and future management professionals about the growing importance of SSE on the international stage.

NOVEMBER 26



Advocacy

New York, United States

Adoption of a new United Nations Resolution on SSE

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution entitled “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development,” with 175 votes in favor. The text reaffirms the importance of SSE in achieving the SDGs through inclusive and resilient growth. As an observer of the UNTFSSSE, GSEF welcomes the adoption of this resolution and thanks the supporting countries. The text explicitly mentions BordeauxGSEF2025, the upcoming Global SSE Forum, as a major international event supporting its implementation.

[Read the resolution](#)

NOVEMBER 26-27



Afrique

Cotonou, Benin

2nd Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs' Meeting in Benin – RenESS

Recently joined as a member of GSEF, SENS Benin organized a major event for the local ecosystem by hosting the 2nd Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs' Meeting. The event brought together several African GSEF members, including continental co-presidents Aminata Diop Samb (City of Dakar) and Malick Diop (Platform of Non-State Actors of Senegal), Monique Ayi (President of REMCESS), and Fabrice Adelphe Balou (co-pilot of GSEF SSE Youth Hub in Africa), who came to share initiatives and experiences from across the continent.

The creation of the Network of Mayors of Benin Committed to SSE (RMBESS) marked a major step forward for the territorial anchoring of SSE in the country, and reflects the strong momentum of SSE in Africa, further reinforced by DakarGSEF2023.

NOVEMBER 29



Dijon, France

Roundtable at the “Journées de l'Économie Autrement”: The Preston Model

As part of the “Journées de l'Économie Autrement” organized in Dijon by Alternatives économiques, GSEF held a roundtable on the Preston model, a key example of localized economic democracy. An exclusive interview with Matthew Brown, Leader of Preston City Council, shed light on the transformative social and economic potential of this inspiring model.

The discussion explored the conditions necessary for implementing local Community Wealth Building strategies.

[A look back at the event](#)

DECEMBER 3RD



BordeauxGSEF2025

Bordeaux, France

Official Launch of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Dynamic

The 7th Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum (GSEF) was officially launched at Bordeaux City Hall during a public event that brought together all co-organizers and institutional partners. Speeches from the GSEF co-presidencies and local authorities reaffirmed their commitment to making BordeauxGSEF2025 an ambitious, inclusive, and international Forum, rooted in social and ecological transitions.

On this occasion, the GSEF and France Volontaires signed a partnership agreement to promote international exchange and solidarity volunteering programs (VIES) among SSE stakeholders, raise awareness among volunteers about solidarity economy issues, and support GSEF's initiatives, particularly through the SSE Youth Hub and the Forum.

Messages of support were shared by the French Minister Delegate for SSE, previous host cities, and engaged networks. To close the event, an 8-meter wooden structure symbolizing #BordeauxGSEF2025 was collectively assembled by SSE stakeholders - a powerful gesture of commitment, co-construction, and mobilization.

[BordeauxGSEF2025](#) • [More on BordeauxGSEF2025 and the launch event on page 41](#)

DECEMBER 20



Publication

GSEF News December 2024

The end-of-year newsletter looks back at the highlights of 2024 and sets the course for 2025 and the upcoming Global SSE Forum BordeauxGSEF2025.

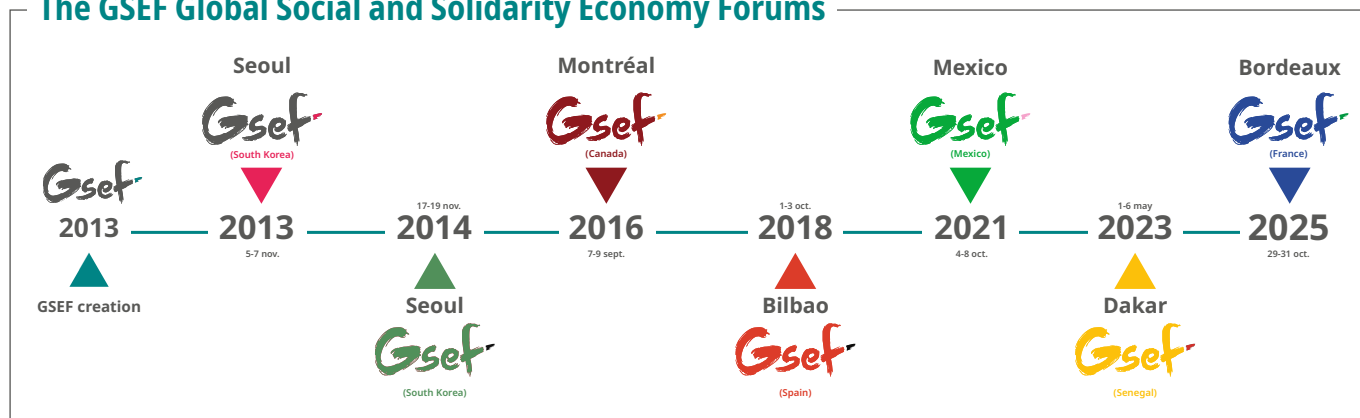
[Read GSEF News December 2024](#)



The GSEF Global Forums

Every two years, a Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum is co-organized with member cities across continents. It has become a key event for the SSE, reflecting its vitality and carrying a strong political dimension embodied in the Declaration adopted at the end of each edition. The Forum serves as a unique platform for mutual learning, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of visions on all aspects of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The GSEF Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forums



GSEF2013 : 'New Discovery of Collaboration' (5-7 November 2013, Seoul, Korea)

GSEF2014 [inaugural meeting]: 'Solidarity for Change' (17-19 November 2014, Seoul, Korea)

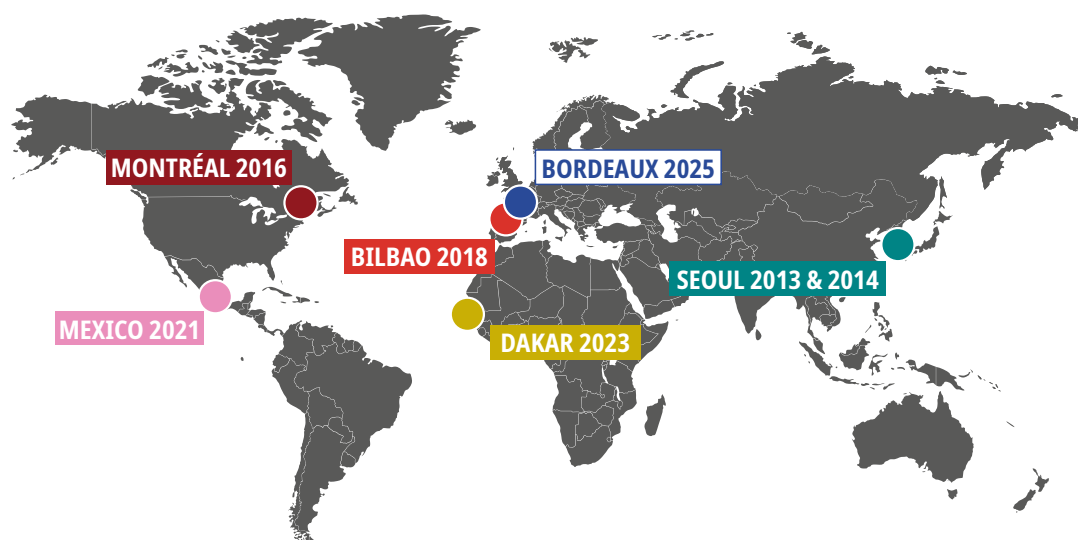
GSEF2016 : 'Local Governments and Social Economy Stakeholders – Allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities' (7-9 September 2016, Montreal, Canada)

GSEF2018 : 'Social Economy and Cities – Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development' (1-3 October 2018, Bilbao, Spain)

GSEF2021 : 'Local Governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy' (4-8 October 2021, Mexico City, Mexico)

GSEF2023 : 'Transitioning from informal economies to collective and sustainable economies for our territories' (May 1-6, 2023, Dakar, Senegal)

GSEF2025 : 'The SSE, a precondition for a just transition towards resilient territories and the well-being of their inhabitants' (October 29-31 2025, Bordeaux, France)





OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE BORDEAUXGSEF2025 DYNAMIC

The official launch of BordeauxGSEF2025, the 7th edition of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum of the GSEF, took place on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at Bordeaux City Hall. This event marked the beginning of a collective mobilization in preparation for the Forum, which will be held from October 29 to 31, 2025 in Bordeaux.

Strong Institutional Mobilization

The ceremony brought together the Forum's co-organizers:

- ▶ Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux and President of the GSEF
- ▶ Alain Rousset, President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council
- ▶ Jean-Luc Gleyze, President of the Department of Gironde
- ▶ Alain Garnier, Vice-President of Bordeaux Métropole in charge of SSE
- ▶ Stéphane Montuzet, President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- ▶ Benoît Hamon, President of ESS France



All emphasized the importance of the SSE as a driver of economic and social transformation and expressed their commitment to making BordeauxGSEF2025 an inclusive and globally recognized event.



[The Launch Film of BordeauxGSEF2025](#)



International Support

Video messages of support were shared, notably from Juan Mari Aburto, Mayor of Bilbao (host of GSEF2018), and Mamie Awou Dieng Lo, Deputy Mayor of Dakar (host of GSEF2023), reflecting the continuity and solidarity within the GSEF network.

[Message from Dakar](#) • [Message from Bilbao](#)

Marie-Agnès Poussier-Winsback, French Minister Delegate for the Social and Solidarity Economy, also shared her best wishes for the success of this edition.



A Participatory Symbol: the #BordeauxGSEF2025 Totem

To embody the values of co-construction and participation, an 8-meter-long wooden structure forming the hashtag #BordeauxGSEF2025 was built in the City Hall gardens by local SSE actors. Designed to travel across the Bordeaux metropolitan area, this totem symbolizes the collective commitment to the Forum.

[Watch the totem construction timelapse video](#)



On track to BordeauxGSEF2025



BORDEAUX 2025

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

29 - 31 October 2025

7th
edition



In 2025, the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum will be held for the first time in France, following previous editions in Seoul, Montréal, Bilbao, Mexico City, and Dakar.


This biennial global gathering brings together all stakeholders from the Social and Solidarity Economy ecosystem.


General Theme

« The SSE, a precondition for a just transition towards resilient territories and the well-being of their inhabitants »

The 7th edition of the Forum will take place from October 29 to 31, 2025, in Bordeaux, which currently co-presides over the GSEF.

Each Global Forum edition:

 **pursues a political objective** by bringing together elected officials and leaders from around the world, international experts, development agencies, networks, and grassroots actors committed to promoting an economy focused on people and the planet. A final declaration sets out political commitments and outlines a two-year roadmap.

 **encourages peer learning and the exchange of innovations** across all continents. Successful initiatives led by local governments and SSE stakeholders are showcased through a rich, co-constructed program.

The 2025 edition is co-organized by the City of Bordeaux, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Department of Gironde, Bordeaux Métropole, and the Regional SSE Chamber (CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine), in close partnership with the GSEF.

The event will take place over **three days**, preceded by a **local territorial discovery day**.

Between **4,000 and 5,000 participants** from five continents are expected.

All information on BordeauxGSEF2025: bordeauxgsef2025.org



Main venues: Palais 2 l'Atlantique, Hangar 14, and La Cité Bleue



The General Secretariat

THE GSEF SECRETARIAT IN 2024

In 2024, the GSEF Secretariat team expanded and moved into new offices provided by Bordeaux Métropole, located next to Bordeaux City Hall.



Aude Saldana
General Secretary



Thomas Allié
Communication and Network Officer



Martin Georges
Thematic and technical animation Officer
Youth expert



Angélique Julia
Administration officer
2 days per week



Guillaume Weber
Mission Officer - Research
Focus Latin America and the Caribbean



Jeanne Morel
Coordinator of the BordeauxGSEF2025
Scientific Committee
In apprenticeship, one week out of two
since September 2024



Valentine Boglione
Operations Assistant – GSEF SSE Youth Hub – Africa Region
International Solidarity Volunteer, in partnership with IFAID and with financial support from the City of Bordeaux
Based in Abidjan since October 2024, she supports the co-piloting structure of the SSE Youth Hub for Africa, ABEWE, in implementing and expanding activities across the continent. Her work focuses in particular on supporting the 17 Youth Focal Points in their respective countries, providing them with tools and strengthening their cooperation. She also contributes to the implementation of the recommendations issued during the Young Leaders Forum on SSE in Yamoussoukro.

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).





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOKS

In 2024, the GSEF carried out its activities thanks to membership fees, public subsidies from the City of Bordeaux, Bordeaux Métropole, the Department of Gironde and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, and through the one-off valorisation of its participation in specific events. Actual expenditures reached €380,306, while revenues amounted to €368,945.

The year also marked the launch of the 2024 membership fee campaign in April, supported by the development of a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) tool. After two years of manual processes, this GDPR-compliant interactive database now enables structured and semi-automated relationship management with members. Developed in partnership with the association Traversées, which supports GSEF in its digital environment strategy, the tool simplifies fee tracking, supports the production of digital resources, and improves membership database management. The Secretariat team received training to ensure its effective adoption and use.

GSEF warmly thanks its members and the four public authorities for their commitment, which helps cover the network's operating costs. This essential support also highlights the need to strengthen and diversify funding sources.

In this spirit of consolidation and sustainability, GSEF continues its efforts to diversify its financial base by responding to project calls and developing a structured service offer. This work led to the creation of a dedicated document showcasing the network's internal expertise and its ability to mobilize diverse international competencies.

[Check out the GSEF Service offer](#)

Advocacy	Networking	Capacity building
Awareness-raising	Strategy	Democratic governance
Public policies development	SSE	Local anchoring
Value sharing	Social utility	Sustainable development
Cooperation	Preservation of the living	Social justice
Decent work	Peace	Democracy

Contact us: aude.saldana@gsef-net.org

— LET'S BUILD TOGETHER AN APPROACH TAILORED TO YOUR CHALLENGES AND RESOURCES —

Take advantage of the 12 years of expertise of a global network of players, operating in 35 countries and committed to local SSE dynamics, to strengthen your capacities, structure your initiatives and help your local public policies evolve.

- **Awareness-raising and advocacy on SSE**
 - Workshops and training on SSE principles and challenges
 - Sharing best practices through case studies
 - Learning tours to learn about inspiring and tangible initiatives
- **Structuring and networking**
 - Connecting local players and creating spaces for exchange
 - Support for participative governance of SSE ecosystems
 - Mapping and analysis of local SSE dynamics
- **Development of public policies**
 - Assessment of existing regulatory frameworks and strategies
 - Technical support in structuring strategic approaches and integrating the SSE into public policies
 - Drawing up action plans, monitoring progress and evaluating results

— HERE TO LISTEN AND EXCHANGE —
(in English, French and Spanish)

- 1. DIAGNOSIS**
Joint analysis of your needs and identification of available resources and expertise
- 2. CO-CONSTRUCTION**
Defining the appropriate service and seeking financing
- 3. IMPLEMENTATION**
Execution, monitoring, and adjustments to support your approach
- 4. EVALUATION**
Assessment of mission results in relation to initial objectives



COMMUNICATION

In 2024, the GSEF continued its efforts to strengthen the network's identity and foster a sense of belonging among its members, while consolidating its external visibility. A set of communication tools was developed for members — including email signatures, logos, badges, and a representation protocol — to ensure consistent and shared messaging by the network's representatives.



The GSEF newsletter was relaunched after a two-year pause, with two publication campaigns. It is intended to become a regular tool for both internal and external communication, highlighting member initiatives, local dynamics, and the public policies they promote.



Two major campaigns shaped the year: one focused on **promoting the DakarGSEF2023 Forum proceedings**, and the other marking **the anniversary of the United Nations resolution on SSE**. Alongside these highlights, the GSEF maintained an active daily presence on social media, sharing Secretariat updates and showcasing member-led activities throughout the year.



In parallel, the GSEF actively contributed to communications related to the **BordeauxGSEF2025 Global Forum**, notably through its participation in the dedicated working group and the amplification of messages from co-organizers. The organization also supported the promotion of **the official launch event held in December 2024**, marking the start of the collective mobilization.

Contact :

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

gsef-net.org





The GSEF is open to local governments, networks and civil society actors committed to promoting and developing the Social and Solidarity Economy, and keen to address, through SSE, the local and global issues facing communities and territories around the world.

Being a GSEF member means:

- ▶ Becoming a part of a solid and recognised SSE network ;
- ▶ Accessing a platform to connect with other members and SSE players in your country and worldwide ;
- ▶ Exchanging ideas on best regional practices from around the world and receiving sound advice on how to implement them ;
- ▶ Acquiring tools and the support of renowned experts with local and regional knowledge to build a global strategy for the development of SSE in your region ;
- ▶ Making your voice heard on regional, national and international scenes and contributing to the development of agendas ;
- ▶ Participating in the GSEF's decision-making processes ;
- ▶ Boosting the visibility of your organization and promoting your activities through the GSEF's communication means.

How to join the GSEF:

- ▶ Fill in the application form at gsef-net.org/apply-for-membership ;
- ▶ Contact the GSEF General Secretariat: gsef@gsef-net.org ;
- ▶ Your application will be reviewed by the GSEF Steering Committee.





Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy

Global organization of local governments
and civil society networks



gsef-net.org

Secrétariat du GSEF

Hôtel de Ville, Place Pey Berland
33000 Bordeaux, France
Contact: gsef@gsef-net.org

The GSEF operates thanks to the contributions of its members and the support of the City of Bordeaux, Bordeaux Métropole, the Department of Gironde, and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.



Ville de
BORDEAUX



**BORDEAUX
MÉTROPOLÉ**



Gironde
LE DÉPARTEMENT



Nouvelle-
Aquitaine