



Gsef

BORDEAUX 2025

FORUM MONDIAL DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE ET SOLIDAIRE
 GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FORUM
 FORO GLOBAL DE LA ECONOMÍA SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIA

29 - 31 October 2025

Event Presentation

- October 2024 -





Editorials



Pierre Hurmic
Mayor of Bordeaux
President of the GSEF

A major event is set to be held in Bordeaux in October 2025. We are immensely proud of being the host city for the seventh Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, and as mayor, I am not only proud but also extremely hopeful, because there is every reason to believe that in economic terms, the twenty-first century will either be SSE or it won't be, to paraphrase a famous quote by Malraux.

That is my deep, personal conviction, and it is ours, collectively. Back in 2021, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Department of Gironde, Bordeaux Métropole and the City of Bordeaux decided to move forward hand in hand in support of the Social and Solidarity Economy, to encourage innovation and collective approaches while raising awareness among new audiences, and to facilitate access to land for committed businesses. This is a rare and exemplary situation.

The consequences of this joint commitment are very tangible, and the figures are eminently encouraging. In the municipality of Bordeaux alone, where there

are almost 1,500 establishments – half of the city's SSE organisations – the number of employees has increased by more than 20% in the last ten years.

We have managed to turn our regions into testing grounds, inventing new relationships and creating virtuous economies that promote the principles of solidarity and social utility. We are proving by example that municipalities and other local authorities have a central role to play, thanks to their proximity to citizens.

In 2022, I travelled to the UN headquarters in New York to represent local government bodies and business networks in support of the need for a reference text on the SSE. Such a resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 April 2023. This was an important milestone, which we celebrated at the Dakar Forum held during the following month. The Bordeaux 2025 Forum will be an opportunity to take another step in what is nothing short of a revolution.



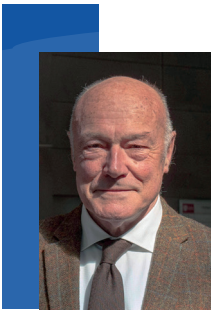
Stéphane MONTUZET
President of the CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Co-President of the GSEF

Much more than a purely economic project, the Social Solidarity Economy is also a political project. It encompasses the pursuit of a fairer society that defends rights and our environment, a society based on solidarity, and a vision of equitably redistributed wealth based on sustainably managed resources. Collective action must be taken on an international scale if this project is to succeed. Within the GSEF, the commitment of the SSE stakeholders and players represented by the CRESS Nouvelle Aquitaine and ESS France reflects this desire for social transformation that makes the economy a vehicle for individual and collective emancipation.

Our next event – the Bordeaux 2025 Forum – will showcase this profusion of initiatives, practices and people committed to serving the general interest.

Our conviction is that a desirable and just future can only be achieved through the SSE and the policy of forging the links required to foster solidarity between the world's citizens.





Alain Rousset
President of
Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Regional Council

The Social and Solidarity Economy is inextricably linked to my conception of political action. It is just as much one of the linchpins of a major regional development policy, bringing life back to places where it may sadly have disappeared, as it is a profound source of innovation, particularly in human terms. It also complements and inspires the conventional economy. In the absence of a lucrative market – often in rural areas, or in public utility sectors such as waste, funeral services or integration through economic activity – the SSE is on hand to bring together all the stakeholders in a given area and forge a society. In this way, it becomes a laboratory for all kinds of transitions, a permanent field of exploration and a model for corporate territorial responsibility.

It is an immense source of regional pride: Nouvelle-Aquitaine was the first region to create a division entirely dedicated to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). The tenth anniversary of the Hamon Law is an appropriate occasion to assess how far we have come and to set a new course in order to ramp up this vast movement; an approach which, by its very nature, accommodates the bifurcations essential to the entire economic world. The Global SSE Forum in Bordeaux, where delegations from all over the world will be converging with the shared conviction that the SSE is a viable and humanistic economic model, compatible with planetary limits, will be the perfect opportunity to demonstrate its relevance. See you in October 2025.



Jean-Luc Gleyze
President of the Departmental
Council of Gironde
and
Sophie Piquemal
Vice-President



The major social, economic, ecological and societal transformations of the twenty-first century will either be collective or they won't be. Here in Gironde, we are creating a network of human and territorial solidarity in order to promote simultaneous reflection and action everywhere, in tune with local realities. The roadmap we share with the SSE players in Gironde enables us to carry out projects in the general and collective interest and to innovate based on the realities of the territory in which we live, in contrast to a vertical market economy that is disconnected from realities in the field and leads to environmental predation, withdrawal, social exclusion and a feeling of abandonment. Nourished by its strong local roots, this local economy becomes a means of integration, thanks to the sustainable jobs it creates,

which cannot be relocated, and helps to build the social fabric that is essential to the resilience of our society. Joining the GSEF will enable the Gironde ecosystem to benefit from the international momentum that is essential in order to enrich local social and solidarity networks in the medium and long term. Tomorrow's economy will, first and foremost, be a grassroots economy! In Gironde, as in the rest of the world, there can be no long-term prosperity on a planet engulfed by climatic and social disasters. In addition to our local actions, we are committed to forging links with civil society beyond our borders in order to convey the hope of a fair form of globalisation that is actively engaged at the local level.



Christine Bost
President of
Bordeaux Métropole

The SSE is a breeding ground for social innovation. It is helping to make our territory an active, solidarity-oriented metropolis, and is wholly consistent with the new trajectory our local authority wishes to take. Aware of the economic, social and environmental issues at stake, Bordeaux Métropole has created a support ecosystem for stakeholders which encourages the development of economic projects and numerous initiatives for its inhabitants and its territory.

Supported by an ambitious metropolitan policy over the last fifteen years, the SSE is playing an increasingly important role throughout our area by ensuring the existence of solidarity down to the last mile, meeting the essential needs of our fellow citizens, and providing multiple, adapted and innovative responses to social and environmental challenges.

Today, Bordeaux is delighted to continue this work by hosting the Global SSE Forum. The commitment shared by our local authority, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Department of Gironde and the City of Bordeaux enables us to align the different strategies being implemented in order to offer our partners coordinated and complementary initiatives.

These opportunities to engage in discussion and share experiences with global players in the SSE sector will enable us to keep raising the profile of the SSE, while promoting inspiring solutions that can be disseminated throughout our territories as concrete examples of an inclusive and supportive job-creating model.



Global SSE Forum Bordeaux GSEF 2025

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

This major biennial international event brings together all the stakeholders in the Social and Solidarity Economy ecosystem.

What is the objective?

The aim is to pool the visions and practices that can make the SSE the “standard that will regulate the economy of tomorrow”, imposing the primacy of people and collective projects over capital, and structuring an economy based on proximity and long-term perspectives.

This seventh edition will be held from 29 to 31 October 2025 in Bordeaux, a city whose mayor is also President of the GSEF.

Each edition of the Global SSE Forum:

- **pursues a political objective** by bringing together elected representatives and leaders from all over the world, along with international experts, development agencies, networks and stakeholders in the field who are committed to promoting this economy focused on people and respect for the environment. A final declaration sets out the political commitments and a roadmap for the next two years.

- **promotes exchanges of experience and expertise** throughout all continents. Successful innovations driven by local governments and all the players involved in the SSE are showcased in a rich, jointly developed programme.

Bordeaux GSEF 2025 will be an important milestone on the road to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With five years to go until the 2030 Agenda, it should enable us to bring civil society and local and regional authorities together to get things moving, challenge decision-makers and speed up the transition.

This is all the more crucial given the numerous threats facing the world today: wars, authoritarian regimes, economic disorder, social conflicts, ecological disasters and so on. The aim is to show that another world is possible and that it already exists.

The Scientific Committee will therefore be offering an extensive programme revolving around a strong theme and leading to a variety of sub-themes, fuelled by contributions from all over the world.

In addition to hosting discussions, the Forum will also have impacts in time and space, thanks to a series of territorial pathways, a cultural programme and an SSE showcase for all audiences, participants and the general public alike.

Bordeaux GSEF 2025 – a welcoming, lively, stimulating and engaging Forum.



Facts & Figures

**3-day Forum
+ 1 day of territorial
pathways**

**3,000 participants
are expected from all
5 continents:**

local and national governments, institutions, networks and SSE players, with strong French and European involvement.

**One dedicated site:
The Palais 2 l'Atlantique
at Bordeaux-Lac**

**+ one site with easy access to the city:
Hangar 14 in the centre of Bordeaux.**

One general theme

"The SSE, a prerequisite for a just transition towards resilient territories and their inhabitants' well-being"

This theme is divided into sub-themes based on contributions expected from local governments, networks, SSE stakeholders, etc. following the call launched in July and open until 20 December 2024.

The proposed contributions will be examined by the **Scientific Committee** and will form the Forum programme, following on from the policy plenary sessions and thematic round-table discussions



Composition of the Bordeaux GSEF 2025 Scientific Committee

chaired by Timothée Duverger, Doctor of History and lecturer at Sciences Po Bordeaux, where he heads the TerrESS Chair.

16 national and international researchers
20 national and international stakeholders



Find out more about the 2025 call for contributions and the composition of the Scientific Committee:
www.bordeauxgsef2025.org



Different discussion and content formats

- an opening and closing ceremony with a presentation of the Bordeaux Declaration
- policy panels linking the SSE and public policies
- thematic plenary sessions
- workshops and self-managed sessions, resulting from a call for contributions



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A stand area

for institutions, networks, SSE players and partners in the central building at the Forum venue
For more information about reserving stands:
www.bordeauxgsef2025.org

A networking dimension,

with spaces and tools for networking during the Forum.

Nine territorial pathways on the eve of the event,

offered to participants by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and the Department of Gironde with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the SSE.

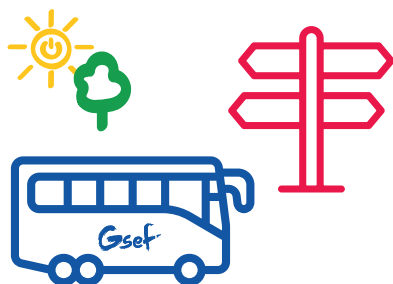
Nine tours will be organised simultaneously on the day before the Forum. Four tours in Gironde :

- Médoc
- Bassin d'Arcachon and Val de Leyre
- Libournais
- Sud-Gironde

And five tours in neighbouring departments.

They will include:

- visits to two flagship SSE sites in the region
- an "Initiatives Village" featuring local SSE players and focusing on a variety of themes
- meetings with institutional partners
- a focus on tourism and gastronomy.



A requirement to stage an eco-designed and resource-efficient event

A cultural programme with events

held in the city centre



Involvement of young people

- The GSEF itself will be ensuring the involvement of young people as a follow-up to the Dakar appeal to young people. The aim of this initiative is to culminate in a declaration at the Bordeaux Forum, and also to encourage young people to come to Bordeaux, particularly from West Africa, with the support of youth groups.
- Special attention will also be paid to involving the 15 to 25-year-old age group locally, both before and during the event, with the aim of both attracting young people to the Forum and giving them an opportunity to learn more about the SSE. This type of entrepreneurship can only be developed by bringing new generations on board.
- An inter-authority "youth" group, with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the SSE and the GSEF General Secretariat, is developing the youth dimension of the Forum, which is seen as a strong cross-cutting theme of the event.



Spotlight on local players in the SSE

- In addition to participating in the Forum and in local initiatives, these SSE companies are encouraged to bid for service contracts as part of a responsible purchasing policy.
- They will have an opportunity to promote their products and services in a "marketplace".



Official launch on 3 December 2024 - Town Hall courtyard

A special event has been organised in order to promote and publicise the ongoing preparations for GSEF 2025 locally, nationally and internationally, which will reflect the spirit of this edition of the Global SSE Forum (cooperation, co-construction and youth) and will be covered by the media.

The Mayor of Bordeaux, the Presidents of the Region, the Département and Bordeaux Métropole, and the President of the CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine will be speaking. They will welcome Benoît Hamon, President of ESS France, who has come for the event. A participative project will be launched to finalise the installation of a wooden structure in the Town Hall courtyard to mark the organisation of Bordeaux GSEF 2025, just after SSE Month in France. During the year leading up to the Forum, the structure will be moved to other public spaces to give local residents an opportunity to discover it.



A structured organisation



• The Forum is being organised by the City of Bordeaux in cooperation with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Department of Gironde, Bordeaux Métropole and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the SSE, in close collaboration with the GSEF General Secretariat.

• **Strategic team and general coordination:**
Policy steering for the City of Bordeaux:
Stéphane Pfeiffer – Jean-Baptiste Thony
Coordinator: **Fabienne Oré-Courregelongue**

- **Operational team:**
- Bordeaux GSEF 2025 Project Manager: **Magali Nogues**
 - Event Logistics Officer: **Julie Galvan**
 - Administrative Support Assistant (recruitment in early 2025)
 - +
 - a Senegalese International Solidarity Volunteer in charge of motivating youth groups around the world
 - a work-study trainee in charge of supporting local initiatives aimed at young people (Centre d'information Jeunesse Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
 - a work-study trainee in charge of supporting the Scientific Committee with the call for contributions (GSEF).

The GSEF General Secretariat and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the SSE are partners in the organisation of the Forum and are contributing to it at various levels (call for contributions, mobilisation of local, national and international networks, etc.).

- Its governing bodies include:
 - a Steering Committee
 - an extended and restricted Organising Committee
 - a Technical Committee
 - a Scientific Committee.

To keep up to date with the organisation of the Forum, join the GSEF and Bordeaux GSEF 2025 social networks (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X).





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







An international organisation ...

The GSEF (Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy) is an international organisation of local governments and civil society networks committed to promoting the social and solidarity economy (SSE) as a means of achieving inclusive and sustainable local development.

Created in 2013, the GSEF differs from existing international SSE initiatives and networks. The emphasis on the role of local government clearly affirms their crucial role in the governance and resolution of the major challenges of the twenty-first century, from climate change to social cohesion and inequalities.

The GSEF is convinced that systemic changes begin at the local level, underpinned by a partnership between civil society and public and private stakeholders, with the aim of ramping up the SSE to set the standard for tomorrow's economy, by integrating the collective management of common goods. The GSEF promotes various forms of SSE, including social enterprises, cooperatives, foundations, mutual societies and self-help groups, which put people before profit.

In addition to its biennial SSE forum, which has become one of the largest international gatherings, the GSEF operates in five key areas:

-  **capacity building for local governments (co-construction of SSE public policies)**
-  **exchanges of experience and research and publication practices**
-  **creation and support for local and national SSE networks**
-  **international advocacy for international recognition of the SSE**

The GSEF has a significant capacity for convergence, through its many partnerships and closer collaborations, in addition to a capacity for action. The GSEF cooperates with international networks, which are also members. This collective approach facilitates collaborative actions in line with priorities in order to promote the SSE and, with it, a change in development models. Through its advocacy activities, the GSEF has made a major contribution to the international recognition of the SSE by the most multilateral institutions, building up momentum which culminated in 2022-2023 with the OECD Recommendation, the universal definition of the International Labour Conference (ILC), and the Resolution of 18 April 2023 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

... with strong local roots

In October 2021, the GSEF General Assembly selected Bordeaux as the host city for the headquarters of its Standing Secretariat, previously based in Seoul, South Korea. The city's bid was supported by four partner local authorities: the City of Bordeaux, Bordeaux Métropole, the Department of Gironde and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, in association with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the Social and Solidarity Economy (CRESS) representing stakeholders and stakeholder networks.

The GSEF is chaired by Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux (Vice-President of Bordeaux Métropole) and co-chaired by Stéphane Montuzet, President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Since the introduction of continental co-presidencies in 2021, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region has carried out this mandate for Europe (vice-presidency: Departmental Council of Gironde).

Facts & Figures

- 84 members from 37 countries on five continents, including 24 local governments, 7 local government networks and 23 civil society networks.
- Secretary General – Aude Saldana

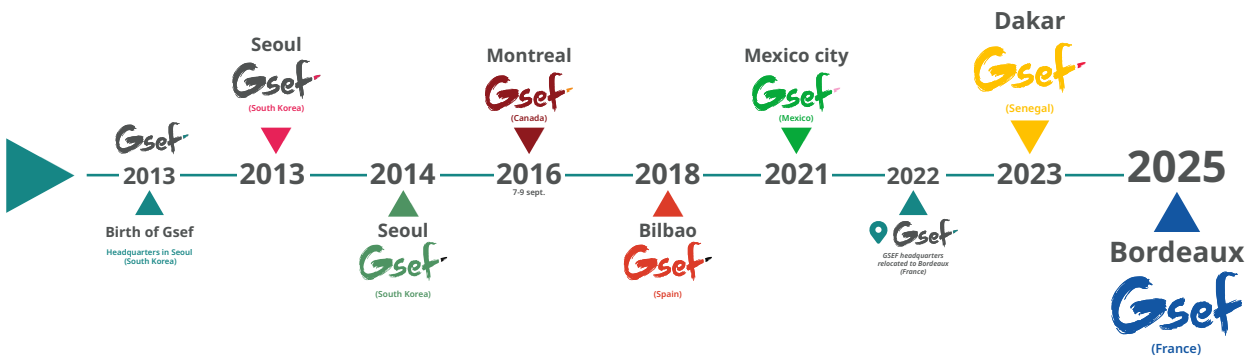
Contact: gsef@gsef-net.org
Find out more: www.gsef-net.org





One event: the Global SSE Forum

In 10 years, the GSEF has become a recognised global network, demonstrating its ability to mobilise a wide range of players from every continent. This is illustrated by the success of the last six GSEF Global Forums (Seoul, Montreal, Bilbao, Mexico and Dakar). The GSEF entrusts the organisation of this major event to a host city on a biennial basis. Bordeaux GSEF 2025 represents the seventh edition of the Global SSE Forum.



Focus on ...

DakarGSEF2023

Dakar hosted the 2023 edition of the GSEF Global SSE Forum, co-organised by the City of Dakar, RACTES, the GSEF and the Senegalese Ministry of Microfinance and SSE. This six-day event featured a GSEF Forum preceded by two pre-forum events: "Jeun'ESS" focusing on youth, and "Femm'ESS" focusing on women. The event was very well attended, with a large number of participants from Senegal and West Africa. This edition culminated in the reading of the Dakar Declaration at the closing plenary session.

- 4 plenary sessions
- More than 250 contributions
- 80 workshops and self-managed sessions
- 402 speakers from 37 countries on 5 continents
- 3,000 participants
- 230 national and local governments represented
- 260 cities in 60 countries on 5 continents



The Social and Solidarity Economy

Worldwide

Existing on every continent, the SSE takes on different forms according to each country's history and culture, but is not always represented at the institutional and political levels. However, what these different forms do have in common is that they place the economy in a local context, as a means of development that is genuinely geared towards local people, and not as an end in itself.

Many countries around the world have recently adopted a legislative framework or support policy for the SSE, or are considering doing so.

2023 was a momentous year in terms of international recognition for the SSE, with the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution entitled "Promoting the Social Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development", on 18 April. This resolution provides an official definition of the SSE and recognises its contribution to the achievement and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This recognition follows the adoption in 2022 of the International Labour Conference Resolution on Decent Work and the SSE, and the OECD Council Recommendation on the Social Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation in the same year.

In Europe

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a reality in Europe, accounting for 19.1 million jobs in the European Union (EU), 9% of the EU's working population and 10% of European GDP, according to a report by the European Economic and Social Council. A quarter of all companies created in Europe are SSE companies. The sector's potential is increasingly recognised by the different Member States, but only certain countries have adopted a comprehensive legislative framework for the SSE (France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden).

On 27 November 2023, the Council of the European Union adopted a recommendation designed to provide guidelines for Member States on developing favourable social economy framework conditions.





What is the situation in France?

Bolstered by its 200-year history in France, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) promotes a resilient development model based on the vitality of its citizens, in which the creation of wealth promotes the longevity of business and development at regional level.

The SSE provides concrete solutions at local level, serving the general interest and collective needs, both today and tomorrow. It represents:

- empowerment for residents of all our regions;
- business opportunities and useful local jobs in companies that are “within reach” of where we live;
- a local presence, with activities and jobs that cannot be relocated.
- a multitude of stakeholders and players.

At a time of major, epoch-defining challenges, SSE stakeholders and players are advocating the organisation of society and its activities on the basis of cooperation, solidarity, consideration of environmental issues and a fair distribution of wealth.

They are continuing to build a model that does not prioritise returns on capital and the consumerist model.

SSE organisations are characterised by their wide range of activities, backgrounds, sizes and projects. Everyone benefits collectively from the services and products produced by the SSE sector on a daily basis, often without even realising it. From personal and business services, or medical and social care, to agriculture, energy, transport, construction and industry, the SSE spans all human activities.

The Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a form of enterprise and economic development that brings together organisations seeking to reconcile cooperation with economic, social and environmental performance. They operate collectively and democratically, giving priority to their local area. They are non-profit or limited-profit enterprises.

The French Law of 31 July 2014 laid down a broad legal framework for these organisations.

The Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Chamber for the Social and Solidarity Economy (CRESS) is an association representing SSE organisations in the region. The 18 CRESS associations in France including Overseas France derive their legitimacy from the Law of 31 July 2014 on the SSE, which recognises their role and missions. They are all members of ESS France, the French Chamber for the Social and Solidarity Economy.



In France¹

- 164,540 companies
- 222,331 employer organisations
- 2.4 million employees, 68% of whom are women
- 14% of private employment
- 21 million volunteers



In Nouvelle-Aquitaine²

- 19,840 employer organisations (10% of private establishments)
- 3rd region in France in terms of the volume of SSE jobs
- 246,065 employees (16% of private-sector employment)
- 1.2 million volunteers
- €6.3 billion in gross payroll

Facts & Figures

Texts including extracts from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine CRESS 2023 Activity Report

1 - Source: ESS France

2 - Source: Insee Flores 2020 - Mouvement Associatif

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Important upcoming dates

- **3 December:**
official launch of the 12 months leading up to the Forum
- **20 December:**
close of the call for contributions
[www. bordeauxgsef2025.org](http://www.bordeauxgsef2025.org)
- **Spring 2025:**
publication of the Forum pre-programme and opening of registrations



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