



BORDEAUX 2025

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

29 - 31 October 2025

**Another
world
is already
here!**

Debates, Declarations and Perspectives





Credits

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GSEF – Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy

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Photo : Arthur Péquinn

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Edito

The 7th edition of the GSEF Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum was marked by an exceptional mobilisation of international civil society, bringing together more than 10,000 participants from all continents.

The Forum was imbued with a spirit of resistance that inspired us all, grounded in the collective affirmation that another world is already here and that we must continue to build it.

This affirmation is paradoxical, however. On the one hand, recent years have seen a strong momentum for the SSE, marked by its growing recognition by major international institutions; on the other, the rise of authoritarian regimes and geopolitical tensions are putting it to the test.

What we take away from this is that, far from resigning ourselves to inevitability, we brought to life an international movement of solidarity aimed at bringing people together around a shared horizon of progress.

For the GSEF, this marked a turning point around four key areas.

First, this momentum was reflected in the very strong participation of young people, building on the dynamic initiated in Dakar two years earlier. The emotion we all felt as we listened to their Declaration made us fully aware that a movement is rising — and that it will not be stopped.

Second, now that we are more aware of our collective strength, we must be more demanding of decision-makers. The new recognition enjoyed by the SSE is still too often not matched by resources commensurate with the ambitions expressed. We have clearly placed the issue of financing the SSE on the agenda as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Third, we have strengthened our ties with the academic community. While the SSE's greatest strength lies in its countless initiatives and its constant capacity for renewal, we still need to better understand and share them if we are to achieve the social transformation to which we all aspire.

Finally, in an increasingly unstable world, where wars are multiplying and efforts to combat climate change are losing ground, we reaffirmed our commitment to peace. By strengthening social justice and democracy, the SSE helps prevent conflict, just as it contributes to reconstruction and reconciliation when conflicts have occurred.

BordeauxGSEF2025 was therefore not only an event that brought people together, but also a key milestone on the path towards building a better world.

Stéphane MONTUZET, *GSEF Co-Chair, President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France*
Timothée DUVERGER, *President of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Scientific Committee, France*

Et après le Forum ?

Discover all the resources produced as part of the Forum on bordeauxgsef2025.org:

- Replays of the plenary sessions
- Podcasts and articles dedicated to the round tables
- The BordeauxGSEF2025 declarations
- The directory of speakers
- Highlights from the territorial pathways
- Programmes from the SSE Radio Studio
- Publications related to the Forum

A wealth of resources to explore the discussions in greater depth, share the Forum's key learnings and continue mobilising in support of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

About the GSEF

An international organization

Founded in Seoul in 2013, the GSEF – Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy is an international network bringing together local governments, SSE networks and organizations, public institutions, youth organizations, social and solidarity finance actors, as well as universities and research centres committed to advancing the Social and Solidarity Economy.

With 94 members across 36 countries on five continents, GSEF is driven by a shared conviction: the major social, economic and environmental challenges of our time can best be addressed through territorial approaches built on cooperation between local governments, civil society, academia and economic actors.

gsef-net.org

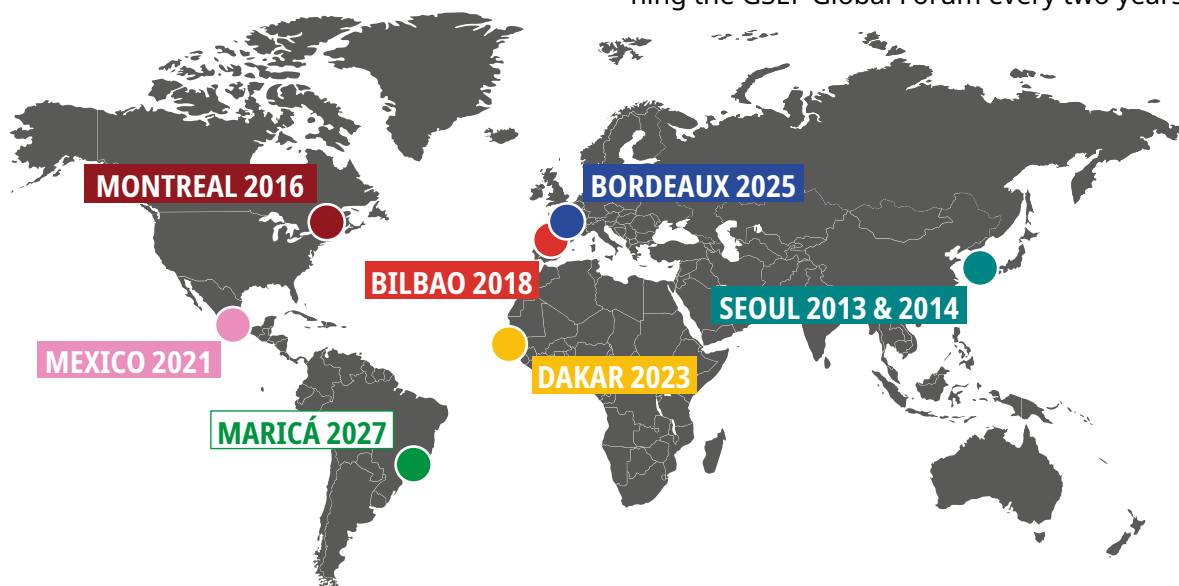
A Flagship Event: The GSEF Global SSE Forum

Hosted every two years by a member city, the GSEF Global Forum has become one of the leading international gatherings dedicated to the Social and Solidarity Economy. It brings together local governments, SSE organizations and networks, public institutions, researchers, social and solidarity finance actors, youth organizations and international partners to address the major challenges facing territories worldwide.

The GSEF is structured around five key areas:

-  **Advocacy on a local, national and international scale**
-  **Training and boosting regional abilities : from awareness-raising to public policy development**
-  **Promoting initiatives and experience sharing**
-  **Support for the development of public/private actors networks**
-  **Applied research and publications**

Over the years, GSEF has established itself as one of the leading international platforms for dialogue, cooperation and advocacy in support of the Social and Solidarity Economy. Its work is built around several complementary pillars: fostering continental dynamics, producing knowledge, developing international cooperation, and organizing the GSEF Global Forum every two years.



BordeauxGSEF2025 at a Glance

10,800 participants

international participation

10 800

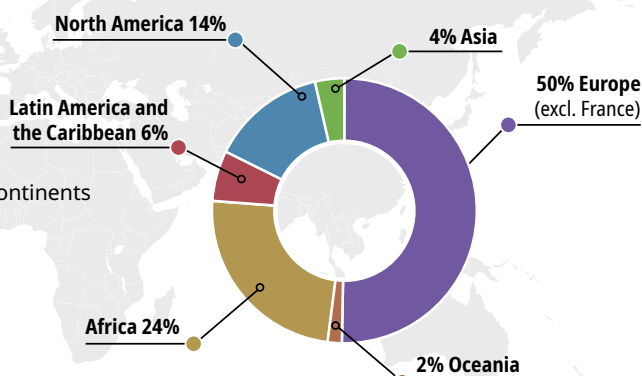


participants across the 3 days and 3 venues of the Forum

from more than **100** nationalities across **5** continents

152 local and national governments

represented by **343** elected officials and public officers



french participation



53%

of participants came from France

territorial pathways

On the eve of the Forum's opening, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Gironde Departmental Council, and the CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine organized territorial discovery tours showcasing local SSE dynamics and initiatives.

9 discovery tours

40 participants on average



3 days, 3 venues

3 venues for exchange

At Palais 2 l'Atlantique

13 plenary sessions
162 roundtables
86 plenary speakers
848 roundtable speakers
55 exhibition stands
16 radio broadcasts

At Hangar 14

37 organizations in the village area
27 workshops
3 major conferences
101 speakers

At Cité Bleue

23 workshops
3 exhibitions
1 open-air movie night
93 speakers

the place of culture

At Palais 2 l'Atlantique

Opening of the Forum by the Choirs of the Bordeaux National Opera
 Closing of the Forum by the Zumbi Rei batucada
3 exhibitions

At Hangar 14

3 public space performances
3 evening DJ sets **1** live performance
13 exhibitions

2 ceremonies

Replay Opening Ceremony



Speakers

- Pierre HURMIC [France](#)
Mayor of Bordeaux, GSEF Co-Chair
- Alain GARNIER [France](#)
Vice President of Bordeaux Métropole in charge of the SSE
- Jean-Luc GLEYZE [France](#)
President of the Gironde Department
- Alain ROUSSET [France](#)
President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council
- Stéphane MONTUZET [France](#)
President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, GSEF Co-Chair
- Simel ESIM [Suisse](#)
Director of the Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy Unit at the ILO and Chair of the UNTFSSSE
- Benoît HAMON [France](#)
President of ESS France

Moderation

- Stéphane PFEIFFER [France](#)
Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of the SSE

Replay Closing Ceremony



Speakers

Introduction

- Fabienne ORÉ-COURREGELONGUE [France](#)
Coordinator of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum
- Aude SALDANA [France](#)
GSEF Secretary General

Reading of the Declarations

- Declaration for Lasting Peace *see page 37*
- International Youth Declaration for SSE *see page 40*
- BordeauxGSEF2025 Declaration *see page 34*

Announcement of Maricá as a Host City for GSEF2027

- Pierre HURMIC [France](#)
Mayor of Bordeaux, GSEF Co-Chair
- Diego ZEIDAN [Brazil](#)
Representative of the Mayor of the City of Maricá
- Fernando ZAMBAN [Brazil](#)
National Secretary for Popular and Solidarity Economy
- Matheus GAÚCHO [Brazil](#)
Secretary for Social and Solidarity Economy, City of Maricá

3 declarations *see the dedicated section on page 33*

**BordeauxGSEF2025
Declaration**

**Declaration for
Lasting Peace**

**International Youth
Declaration for SSE**





Photo : Thomas Sanson

Plenary Sessions

Through its plenary sessions, BordeauxGSEF2025 showcased a Forum fully aware of the scale of the challenges ahead and the urgency of the responses that need to be developed. Combining advocacy, reflection, evidence-based demonstration, mobilisation and calls to action, this edition strongly reaffirmed its convictions.

- The **10 political plenary sessions** brought together political leaders, representatives of international institutions and prominent figures from SSE networks to discuss the challenges, visions and conditions required for sustainable, inclusive and territorially rooted development.
- The **4 thematic plenary sessions** provided an opportunity for leading figures to engage in dialogue on the major issues currently shaping the SSE, contributing to reflection and opening up new perspectives for those who bring it to life every day.

Replay

-  Inaugural lecture
-  Government initiatives promoting the SSE
-  Anticipating and Reflecting : a Research Network to Pave the Way for Sustainable Collaborative Action
-  Following the recognition of the SSE by international organizations, it is now time for action
-  Local SSE policies: what ambitions for scaling up?
-  The Future Lies in Local Territories: Testimonies from Mayors and Local Governments
-  The SSE at the heart of local economic transitions
-  Financing the SSE, the challenge of resources
-  Decent work, a necessity for empowerment
-  Could more economic democracy be the solution?
-  When a dystopia becomes reality, where does the SSE stand?
-  The SSE, a vehicle for social peace



Inaugural lecture

Organised in partnership with CIRIEC International, the opening conference featured economist Pavlina Tcherneva, who addressed a major issue: the job guarantee.



Speaker

- Pavlina TCHERNEVA [USA](#)
President of the Levy Economics Institute, Professor of Economics at Bard College, and Director of OSUN's Economic Democracy Initiative

Introduction

- Timothée DUVERGER [France](#)
President of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Scientific Committee



Government initiatives promoting the SSE

This edition of the Global SSE Forum took place at a pivotal moment on the international agenda, just a few days before the World Social Forum in Doha, bringing together Heads of State and international organisations to accelerate the establishment of a new global social contract.

How are States strengthening the recognition of the SSE by international organisations? In a turbulent global context, how are they contributing to advancing the SSE at continental level? What national policies are needed for the SSE, and with what resources?



Speakers

- Dr Alioune DIONE [Senegal](#)
Minister of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy
- Gilberto CARVALHO [Brazil](#)
National Secretary for Popular and Solidarity Economy, Ministry of Labour and Employment
- María Amparo MERINO SEGOVIA [Spain](#)
Secretary of State for Social Economy
- Luis GUTIÉRREZ REYES [Mexico](#)
Secretary for Social and Solidarity Economy
- YOON Ho-jung [South Korea](#)
Minister of the Interior and Safety
- Maxime BADUEL [France](#)
Ministerial Delegate for the Social and Solidarity Economy
- Lamia KAMAL-CHAOUI [France](#)
Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Moderation

- Stéphane MONTUZET [France](#)
President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, GSEF Co-Chair



Anticipating and Reflecting : a Research Network to Pave the Way for Sustainable Collaborative Action

This plenary session served as the closing session of the 10th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy, held in Bordeaux from 27 to 29 October 2025 in partnership with BordeauxGSEF2025.



Speakers

- Dr Carmen MARCUELLO [Spain](#)
University of Zaragoza, CIRIEC-España, CIRIEC International
- Dr Timothée DUVERGER [France](#)
Sciences Po Bordeaux, CIRIEC-France
- Dr Marletta BUCHELI [Colombia](#)
Pontifical Xavierian University Bogotá, CIRIEC-Colombia, Vice President of CIRIEC International
- Dr Jean-Louis CABRESPINES [France](#)
Director General of CIRIEC-France

Moderation

- Barbara SAK [Belgium](#)
Director of CIRIEC International

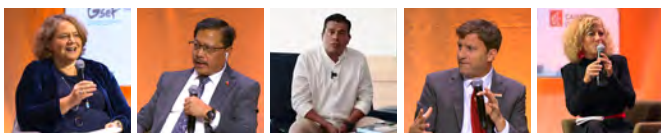


Following the recognition of the SSE by international organizations, it is now time for action

In this International Year of Cooperatives proclaimed by the United Nations, the World Forum formed part of an intense international agenda, between the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Doha in November.

Since the momentum generated by its international recognition in 2022 and 2023, the SSE has been recognised as a key lever for achieving the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. How can the concrete implementation of the various recommendations and resolutions be taken further?

This plenary session provided an opportunity to take stock of progress, examining how organisations are asserting their role in the SSE and questioning the concrete impact of the commitments made and the action plans implemented.



Local SSE policies: what ambitions for scaling up?

Previously characterised by a fragmented approach — divided between different legal families — and sometimes limited to viewing the SSE primarily through its remedial function, new local SSE policies position it as a pluralistic and transformative socio-economic model capable of addressing the challenges of sustainability and inclusion.

Is this simply an adjustment to the existing system, allowing the SSE to coexist alongside a capitalist economy that remains the norm?

Or do these new policies have the potential to transform the system by reshaping it around the SSE, its rules, processes and organisations?

This plenary session aimed to bring together, share and debate the work carried out by the GSEF and CIRIEC International on local SSE policies.



Speakers

- Ruth PASERMAN [Belgium](#)
Director General DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Lope B. SANTOS III [Philippines](#)
Lead Convener of the National Anti Poverty Commission (NAPC)
- Mauricio RODRÍGUEZ AMAYA [Colombia \(video\)](#)
*Director General of Social Prosperity (DPS), Colombia
Executive Coordinator of RIFESS – Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy*
- Sébastien VAUZELLE [France](#)
Head of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat, United Nations

Moderation

- Aude SALDANA [France](#)
GSEF Secretary General

Speakers

- Diego ZEIDAN [Brazil](#)
*Representative of the Mayor of the City of Maricá,
Specialist in SSE Policies*
- Eider INUNCIAGA [Spain](#)
*Councillor for the City of Bilbao, Citizen Services and Participation,
Agenda 2030 and International Affairs*
- Nathalie TUBIANA [France](#)
Head of Finance and Sustainable Development Policy of the Caisse des Dépôts
- Marguerite MENDELL [Québec, Canada](#)
Economist and Distinguished Professor Emerita at the School of Public and Community Affairs, Director of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
- Rafael CHAVES [Spain](#)
Chair of the Scientific Committee of CIRIEC-España

Moderation

- Timothée DUVERGER [France](#)
President of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Scientific Committee





The Future Lies in Local Territories: Testimonies from Mayors and Local Governments

The future lies in territories and in the people who live and act within them. In a fluctuating and uncertain global context, action at this level restores people's capacity to act and makes it possible to develop robust local responses to social and environmental challenges.

The GSEF network emphasises the role of local governments and mayors, affirming their crucial role in governance and in addressing the major challenges of the 21st century.

These two plenary sessions illustrate this conviction and highlight the fundamental partnerships between local governments and civil society, together with the renewal of democratic processes and the need for ongoing dialogue. They presented a broad range of initiatives and experiences from around the world, providing inspiration for other elected representatives as well as SSE stakeholders.



Speakers

PART 1

- Bora KIM **South Korea**
President of SSEGOV and Mayor of Anseong-si, Gyeonggi Province
- Michael KPAKPO ALLOTEY **Ghana**
Mayor of Accra
- Ana UMBELINO **Portugal**
President of REVES and Former Vice-Mayor of Torres Vedras
- Freddy MONTES **Colombia**
Mayor of Belén de Umbría

PART 2

Speakers

- Yves COPPIETERS **Belgium**
Minister of Health, Environment, Solidarity, Social Economy, Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights – Walloon Government and Government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- Monique AYI **Cameroon**
Mayor of Dzeng and President of REMCESS – Network of Cameroon Mayors for the SSE
- Pia IMBS **France**
President of the Strasbourg Eurometropolis
- Christophe BOUILLON **France**
Mayor of Barentin and President of the APVF – Association of Small Towns of France
- Hadiano RASYID **Indonesia**
Mayor of Palu

Moderation

- Mahel COPPEY **France**
President of RTES – Network of Local Authorities for the SSE



The SSE at the heart of local economic transitions

Faced with a global economic model that contributes to widening inequalities and accelerating the degradation of our planet, it is essential to support and scale up the transitions already under way.

This plenary session explored how we can rethink our models, transform our territories and strengthen the positive impact of the economy on society and the environment by joining forces.



Speakers

- Maryline FILIPPI **France**
Lecturer and Researcher at Bordeaux Sciences Agro
- Kako NUBUKPO **Togo**
Economist, former Minister of Foresight and Evaluation of Public Policies of Togo and former Togolese Commissioner within the UEMOA – West African Economic and Monetary Union – Commission
- Isabelle FERRAND **France**
Chief Executive Officer of the Crédit Mutuel National Confederation
- Antoine GROLIN **France**
President of Nhood and Ceetrus

Moderation

- Denis STOKKINK **Belgium**
Economist



Financing the SSE, the challenge of resources

Financing SSE stakeholders is a major concern around the world, both in terms of mobilising resources and their governance. Rethinking financing mechanisms and economic rules must enable a massive redirection of investment towards the SSE.

What positive alliances between governments, development finance institutions and communities can embed SSE principles in financial governance while taking territorial realities into account?

PART 1

How can the SSE be adequately financed to strengthen its position within the economy as a whole?



Speakers

- Rémy RIOUX **France** (video)
Chief Executive Officer, AFD – French Development Agency
- Frédérique DESTAILLEUR **France**
Chair of the Executive Board, Caisse d'Épargne Aquitaine Poitou-Charentes
- Kèmi FAKAMBI **Benin**
Chief Executive Officer, SENS Bénin – Solidarités Entreprise Nord-Sud Bénin
- Marc PICARD **Québec, Canada**
Chief Executive Officer, Caisse d'Économie Solidaire Desjardins
- Gisèle ROSSAT-MIGNOD **France**
Director of the Banque des Territoires Network, Caisse des Dépôts Group
- Aly RAHIM **USA** (video)
Program Manager, Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance (CIVIC) and Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA); Global Lead for Civic and Citizen Engagement, World Bank

Moderation

- Denise Fatoumata NDOUR **Senegal**
General Administrator of Sen'Finances
President of INAISE

How can we move from finance that serves a minority to finance that serves people, territories and the planet?

To address these questions, the speakers in this two-part plenary session presented their visions for finance based on solidarity, ethics, democracy and social justice.

PART 2

What are the key challenges involved in consolidating SSE finance stakeholders?



Speakers

- Pascal MICHARD **France**
President of Aéma Groupe
- Daniel SORROSAL **Belgium**
Secretary General of FEBEA – European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers
- Young KIM **South Korea**
Board Member of the SVS Foundation – Korea Social Value and Solidarity Foundation
- Véronique FAUJOUR **France**
Executive Director of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation

Moderation

- Dominique LESAFFRE **France**
Social and Solidarity Finance Expert





Replay

Decent work, a necessity for empowerment

In many developing countries, the informal economy remains a central reality. In so-called developed countries, the very nature of the relationship to work is changing — for better, but also for worse when this evolution goes hand in hand with precariousness and increasingly intense forms of economic and social domination. The rise of platform-based work is a striking illustration of this trend.

In this context, what levers can the Social and Solidarity Economy activate to organise workers, regardless of their status?

How can decent working conditions and genuine social protection be ensured for all? Can the SSE offer a credible alternative to the dominant model and rebalance power relations? This session brought together analyses, testimonies and avenues for action.



Speakers

- Youssouf KAMARA [France](#)
Bicycle Delivery Worker and President of AMAL – Association for the Mobilisation and Support of Delivery Workers
- Sonia GEORGE [India](#)
Executive Committee Member at IDWFED – International Domestic Workers Federation
- Federico PARRA HINOJOSA [Colombia](#)
SSE Specialist at WIEGO – Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
- Laurent GRANDGUILLAUME [France](#)
President of the National Association Territoire Zéro Chômeur de Longue Durée
- Jules LELLA-KONAN [Côte d'Ivoire](#)
Director of ARDCI – Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire
- Simel ESIM [Switzerland](#)
Director of the Cooperatives, Social and Solidarity Economy Unit at the ILO and Chair of the UNTFSSSE

Moderation

- Jean-Philippe BERROU [France](#)
Lecturer and Researcher, Development Socio-Economist, Les Afriques dans le Monde, Sciences Po Bordeaux
- Quentin CHAPUS [France](#)
Professor of Economics, Les Afriques dans le Monde, Sciences Po Bordeaux



Replay

Could more economic democracy be the solution?

The dominant model makes economic growth the sole indicator of the health of our societies. Faced with rising social inequalities and the accelerating ecological crisis, this dogma is now being called into question. Among the approaches that can be pursued, economic citizenship offers a promising path forward. Giving citizens a greater role in economic decision-making would make it possible to better integrate social and environmental concerns that are often overlooked.

This plenary session explored how democracy can be re-embedded in the economy in order to imagine a fairer and more sustainable development model.

Speakers

- Matthew BROWN [United Kingdom](#)
Senior Fellow for the Promotion of Community Wealth Building, The Democracy Collaborative, Leader of the Preston City Council
- Sarah MCKINLEY [USA](#)
Independent Consultant in Community Wealth Building
- Stéphane JUNIQUE [France](#)
President of Groupe VVV
- Jérôme SADDIER [France](#)
President of Crédit Coopératif and Coop FR
- Joseph NJUGUNA [Belgium](#)
Policy Director at the ICA – International Cooperative Alliance

Moderation

- Timothée DUVERGER [France](#)
Lecturer and Researcher, Chair of the Scientific Committee of BordeauxGSEF2025





When a dystopia becomes reality, where does the SSE stand?

The rise of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes around the world, the weakening of established democracies, the return of obscurantism and the growing reliance on technocratic responses are shaping a world that we once thought belonged only to the imagination of fiction writers.

Faced with these upheavals, to which it holds part of the solution, will the SSE offer firm resistance, or will it be among the first victims of these trends?

This plenary session opened up a much-needed collective space for analysis and responses.



Speakers

- Issa KASSIS **Palestine**
Mayor of Ramallah
- David COBB **USA**
*Coordinator of the US Social Economy Network,
Member of the RIPESS Board of Directors,*
- Benoît HAMON **France**
President of ESS France
- Anne SAVINEL BARRAS **France**
President of Amnesty International France

Moderation

- Thomas LEGRAND **France**
Editorial writer at Libération, Producer at France Inter



The SSE, a vehicle for social peace

Civil wars and wars between States continue to shape world events. These armed conflicts often have their roots in the exploitation of resources and populations, the perpetuation of certain forms of domination, and tensions linked to migration flows.

This plenary session examined how SSE tools can help foster peaceful social relations and prevent conflict, as well as their links with the work of NGOs. It also highlighted the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in post-war reconstruction.



Speakers

- Merem TAHAR **France**
*Youth Special Envoy to the President of the 15th United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification*
- Omar FREILLA **USA**
Co-founder and Coordinator of Collective Diaspora
- Georges-M MAGAMBO **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
*Executive Secretary, PALPGL – Platform of Local Authorities of the
Great Lakes Countries*
- Fanélie CARREY-CONTE **France**
*Secretary General of CIMADE
and former Secretary General of Enercoop*
- Ahmed GALAI **Tunisia**
2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Moderation

- Sybille MERTENS **Belgium**
Economist



Photo : Arthur Péquin

Thematic Pathways

As genuine spaces for dialogue, experience-sharing and co-creation, the **169 round tables** held at BordeauxGSEF2025 showcased the richness and diversity of initiatives led by the global SSE ecosystem. Selected through the **call for contributions** launched by the Scientific Committee in July 2024, they gave a voice to stakeholders from all five continents.

Echoing the Forum's central theme, "**The SSE, a prerequisite for a just transition towards resilient territories and the well-being of their inhabitants**", the **seven thematic pathways** explored the many ways in which the SSE contributes to social, ecological, economic and democratic transitions. They enabled participants to shape their own journey through the Forum, based on their areas of interest and the major challenges to which the SSE seeks to provide concrete responses.



Pathway 1

Financing the Transition: What Tools to Support the SSE?



Pathway 2

Advancing the Ecological Transition: Energy, Food and Waste



Pathway 3

Advancing Decent Work: Employment, Democracy and Inclusion



Pathway 4

Working Together: Cooperation, Territories and Public Action



Pathway 5

Empowering People: Autonomy for All



Pathway 6

Caring: The SSE as a Key Provider of Social Services



Pathway 7

Imagining a Desirable Future: Innovation, Impact and New Narratives

Articles based on selected sessions are available on bordeauxgsef2025.org.

The thematic pathway summaries were produced by the ACC'ESS student cooperative.

ACC'ESS, a student cooperative from the Master's programme in Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation at Sciences Po Bordeaux, supports organisations in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and beyond in developing their SSE projects through consulting, analysis, communication and operational support.





PATHWAY 1

Financing the Transition: What Tools to Support the SSE?



18 ROUNDTABLES



97 SPEAKERS

In these times of uncertainty shrouding SSE organisations in evident vulnerability, growing interest in the “funding transition” pathway attracted eager participants to the round table events. The rich discussions and initiatives presented highlighted a need to rethink funding and apply SSE values, by harnessing the diversity and complementarity of funding sources as a strength for the long-term viability of SSE projects.

“We cannot simply reflect on our economic activity without also considering its impact on its environment and the way people work.

Jérôme Saddier, *President of Crédit Coopératif and Coop FR*

KEY AUDIENCE QUESTION

“How do you defend a complex project when you have to sell it in a few minutes?

We have to rethink the way we see the world as a project leader or funder, and manage to slow down. This is a real challenge worth thinking about.”

REMINDER OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE

All too often, the challenge for SSE organisations is to access funding and loans from conventional funding bodies. The SSE remains an unfamiliar concept for financial structures in the conventional economy, and they believe that certain SSE specificities add to the uncertainty.

The lack of own funds due to controlled profitability increases the financial risk for funders and limits loan amounts. Furthermore, conventional economy bodies are little used to dealing with organisations operating along a democratic model and therefore tend to place lower trust in these structures.

“The main challenge is the rigidity of the tools [...] we have access to for funding companies. The systems we rely on are ill-adapted to the reality of social economy businesses.

Marc Picard, *Managing Director of the Caisse d'Économie Solidaire Desjardins du Québec*

The ongoing context of international economic and geopolitical crises limits the budgets allocated to the SSE and further undermines these structures.

SSE players must adapt their finance and management strategy in order to facilitate and sustain access to funding and grants. This is a key issue in the development of SSE worldwide.

COOPERATIVE AND DIVERSIFIED FUNDING

In this light, and to overcome this weakness, mobilising the entire support and funding ecosystem is an imperative. Funding must be seen as a collective action based on trust.

The complementarity between private and public funders is a key success factor, enabling each player to contribute their tools and expertise.

“Financial engineering will offer a way to combine public funds, private funds and grants, and put them together to create something greater to address these impact challenges.

Véronique Faujour, *Executive Officer of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation*

For example, private funding by foundations, such as the RTE Foundation for ruralities, is particularly relevant in rural regions, as it adapts to local specificities, supports strong community-based momentum and fosters collective sponsorship.

This form of funding, like that of corporate patronage, must be complementary to public action. Funding by local authorities leads to greater growth in the SSE, ensuring institutional recognition of the sector and the long-term viability of projects thanks to the creation of dedicated services.

Public institutions also represent key funding bodies. According to its Chief Executive, Rémy RIOUX, AFD has provided €1 billion in funding for more than 300 projects worldwide. Other forms of hybrid funding such as crowdfunding, impact investments or solidarity-based savings, can also play a beneficial role thanks to a funding model adapted to local ecosystems.

Lastly, many speakers highlighted citizen involvement as a strong lever that the SSE must draw on. Citizen funding takes many forms, can strengthen the business models of organisations and emerges as a financial hybridisation tool to be harnessed.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Senegal boasts more than 2,500 solidarity calabashes; a concept geared towards promoting the empowerment process and run by local communities. Members accumulate pooled funds and use these resources to grant interest-free loans or carry out group purchases of essential products for revenue-generating activities.

In addition to this diversity in resources and funding, collaboration between local players and national networks is to be fostered. In a context of tension within our democracies, a focus on strengthening local forms of cooperation between multiple players leads to virtuous impacts such as the consolidation of economic models, or inter-knowledge. Rallying international or transnational stakeholders, such as the European Union, remains a relevant way to offset potential governmental shortcomings while enabling the creation of national networks.

Considering finance as a form of cooperation implies a new approach to economic democracy.

SUPPORTING LONG-TERM VIABILITY

The recommendations from the round tables call on local authorities, and municipal authorities in particular, to take on the responsibility of supporting SSE project owners to ensure their long-term viability.

Through education in financial control or management and entrepreneurship tools, stakeholders can develop their projects with greater stability while accessing new funding sources.

The Caisses d'Épargnes banking network thus created the Finances & Pédagogie non-profit organisation, a body which provides financial training via action programmes and educational tools.

This support must continue over time with regular monitoring, varied assessment systems adapted to the specificities of SSE organisations, and long-term funding plans.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The Consejo Municipal de Economía Social y Popular de Avellaneda is a body created by the Avellaneda municipal authority (in the Buenos Aires province, Argentina) to recognise, structure and support the social and popular economy on a local level, drawing on funding included in the general municipal budget.

The body produces a promotional catalogue listing all social economy players, and offers full and multi-faceted support through training and incubation schemes, access to micro-loans and financial instruments adapted to small businesses, as well as the provision of marketing spaces.

Furthermore, if the abilities of SSE players are to be bolstered, specific attention must be given to including women. This implies gaining clearer insight into the hurdles they face, supporting their inclusion and leadership through ambitious public policies around access to taxation, and tackling discrimination head on.

Through support for the structuring of local players as of their emergence, production pre-funding and citizen involvement all along the value chain, the SSE can transform the constraints arising in times of economic or political crisis into levers for innovation and resistance.

Given the financial insecurity SSE organisations currently face, and will continue to face, collaborations within the whole support and funding ecosystem must be encouraged, whether among public or private players. Stronger and more enduring impact can be achieved by uniting the tools, expertise and timescales of all those involved. We must organise ourselves collectively as of now!



PATHWAY 2

Advancing the Ecological Transition: Energy, Food and Waste



25 ROUNDTABLES



134 SPEAKERS

The climate emergency requires a large-scale response on the part of SSE stakeholders as alternatives to a shrinking economy. It calls for a renewed approach to international cooperation ensuring that environmental transition is equitable and adapted to local contexts. The multitude of initiatives presented at Bordeaux GSEF 2025 offered a vast source of inspiration, while exposing the challenges that the SSE has yet to overcome.

REMINDER OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE

From floods to hurricanes, drought or fires, the consequences of climate change can no longer be ignored. Despite the comfort they afford to the wealthiest populations, new consumer habits pose a direct threat to communities and the environment.

In response to a growing demand, particularly from Western societies, the textile industry generates more than 100 billion garments annually. The 9000 litres of water required to produce a pair of jeans testify to the voracity of this sector, and its crucial role in environmental transition.

The global food system, industrial for the most part, also generates an extremely high social, environmental and health cost. Monoculture depletes soils and weakens ecosystems, and the food system accounts for 15% of fossil fuel production. This unsustainable model threatens the health of those who feed us. Farmers are exposed to pesticides and sometimes extreme temperatures, and often work with inappropriate tools.

While agriculture is essential, especially in a world where global farming must be re-organised fairly to meet all our needs, it is not a profitable activity. Within this sector that is the world's biggest employer, 63% of workers are poor. The sector is particularly inequitable and precarious in Southern countries, where business lines are globalised, prices volatile and labour poorly remunerated. For example, in traditional channels, just 6% of the price of a chocolate bar reverts to the producer, while 70% goes to the distributing brand.

In order to address farming, food, energy, environmental and social crises, it is now vital to build fairer and more sustainable models, for both ecosystems and populations. SSE offers a lever for action. To this end, it must overcome the instrumentalisation of environmental transition which limits initiatives to ill-adapted aims, as they are determined by conventional performance indicators.

A PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION IN PRODUCTION METHODS

In order to spearhead environmental transition, the SSE must reiterate ecology as one of its core values and purposes. SSE is capable of raising awareness of environmental issues by sustainably changing user habits and creating spaces for the exchange of good practices.

Environmental transition cannot simply take the form of a technological response; it must first become inclusive, participative and locally rooted. The setting-up of regional food councils and citizen committees is key to building a strong and lasting food democracy.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The RENAF (National Network of Family Farming) is a coalition of farming organisations in Colombia, created to defend, promote and strengthen family-run farms. Its aim is to lend visibility to the crucial role of small producers in food security, food sovereignty and post-war peace, while fighting against land concentration.

Identified by the network, the markets through which family- and rurally-farmed produce is sold enable greater participation by women and young people. 61% of vendors are aged between 21 and 40, while 61% of activities are executed by women.

Food is a key sector for launching transitions. Food insecurity is not a fatality, but a consequence of policies which the SSE must consider as such. It is through advocacy and then active policies that food may be enacted as a fundamental right.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Food security is a fundamental right inscribed in Brazil's constitution since 2006. This enactment is the result of decades of citizen activism and demonstrations, as well as the efforts of anti-hunger organisations. Hunger has been recognised as a fundamental political issue.

Several initiatives create a form of food social welfare, such as the food stamps in Quebec, which come in the form of vouchers distributed to people in need, to be used in short circuits and public markets.

The entire agricultural and food system, along with the way in which we produce, process and consume, must be redesigned. Enhanced organisation of the production and sale of organically-farmed produce will help to promote this activity.

Given current challenges and to develop agricultural resilience, the involvement of young people in farming must be strengthened through popular education, and the sector's attractiveness boosted via the exchange of know-how and education thanks to producer-consumer cooperation.

Environmental transition must also include the waste life cycle. This is not simply a question of reducing waste, but of rethinking our attitude to waste and how we manage it. The circular economy, with the example of the non-profit organisation Assoencore which transforms cocoa husks into organic charcoal, reconsiders the value of waste and its potential use.

A FAIR AND COORDINATED ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION

To be effective, environmental transition must be approached from a long-term and holistic perspective, recognising environmental inequalities as such. The notion of humanity's equal footing in the face of climate change is illusory; Southern countries are both more at risk and more vulnerable, and this is undeniably a consequence of political and economic choices. The aim is to reconcile the idea of global justice and the taking into consideration of interdependencies, particularly in terms of certain countries' responsibility for the situation of others.

North / South cooperation must be re-examined through a decolonialist prism, by allowing the countries bearing the full brunt of climate change to be a real inspiration in the environmental transition to be led. This transition can only be accepted by populations if it is socially just, and thus accompanied by an effort to take ownership of the term "just transition", which must be adapted to regions and local populations.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The Environmental Research and Study Group GREEN-SENEGAL is an NGO which draws on local communities for training and the setting-up of farming activities to contribute to food security while protecting the environment. The higher revenues generated by a strengthened local and green economy, bolstered by enhanced knowledge of their rights, provides rural communities with greater resilience to the ecological crisis.

Dialogue between SSE players in all their diversity, whether citizens, informal players, local authorities, consortia or others, will enable the implementation of localised initiatives that are truly adapted to local needs. Only a combative SSE can drive a change in food, energy and waste management systems which will effectively address the environmental and social crisis we are experiencing.

Bordeaux GSEF 2025 offered a fertile ground for rich dialogue, which must now lead to close collaboration between countries and stakeholders' strategies, on a local, regional and worldwide level.



PATHWAY 3

Advancing Decent Work: Employment, Democracy and Inclusion



19 ROUNDTABLES



95 SPEAKERS

Work is at the heart of the SSE. The plenary and round table discussions on the theme of decent employment were both fruitful and instructive. The variety of needs according to local contexts and the initiatives presented illustrated the diversity of stakeholders participating in Bordeaux GSEF 2025. This is a clear sign that the SSE must continue to assert its role as a guarantor of decent work.

RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF INFORMAL PRACTICES WITHOUT DEPRIVING THEM OF THEIR MEANING

According to the ILO, decent work is defined as a freely chosen, productive job, carried out in conditions of freedom, equality, safety and human dignity, ensuring rights, social protection and sufficient remuneration. This definition thus excludes informal employment. While accounting for 58% of world labour, this proportion is much higher in low-income countries, particularly for women, youth and exiles. It must be differentiated from the informal economy, as it is possible to find informal employment within formal activities.

Informality exists on a spectrum. No organisation is entirely formal. The SSE can introduce a certain degree of formality, but informality will persist.

Jürgen Schwettmann, *Researcher in philosophy, Germany*

Informal employment must not be considered as a problem to resolve, rather an issue to be understood and guided in its structuring and the recognition of its value in association with the players behind these innovations. We must consider how and for whom value is generated before attempting to assimilate informality with the formal economic system.

In making access to good-quality employment one of its key principles, the SSE positions itself as a pillar of decent work. The SSE can guide informal structures towards their formalisation and recognition by providing them with a legal identity within SSE statutes. These resources enable the creation of steady employment with legal revenues and access to labour rights and safety.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Burkina Faso's national support scheme for structuring and professionalisation is a structured and gradual process which is geared towards players, organises and offers a legal framework for SSE bodies, boosts their capacity, and supports and facilitates access to physical and symbolic resources. 84 non-profit and cooperative organisations have been created to date. SSE drives sustainable empowerment and access to decent employment in Burkina Faso.

Caution must nevertheless be exercised when implementing support schemes, in order to avoid creating new power relations. Formalisation often leads to masculine managerial values, which in turn weaken conditions for female workers. It is also important to promote indigenous practices without transposing imported colonial systems designed by Western society. Support must be adapted to local and cultural specificities.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The SSE may represent a form of support for formal economy workers whose conditions are indecent. Youssouf Kamara, President of the Association de Mobilisation et d'Aides aux Livreurs [Action and Aid for Deliverers], presented the creation of the Maison des Livreurs in Bordeaux. This drop-in venue provides delivery workers with physical resources (a space to rest, charge their phones, repair their bicycles or speak to a doctor, etc.) in addition to administrative (assistance in obtaining residence permits) and legal (judicial defence) support. The Association also raises awareness among customers and restaurants.

« We have become invisible, no-one sees us now »

Youssouf Kamara, *President of AMAL*

BEYOND FORMALISATION, THE SSE OFFERS A FRAMEWORK FOR EMPOWERMENT

SSE is not a peripheral option, but an organisational framework enabling workers to build collective solutions by lending visibility to these issues through advocacy. It can constitute a genuine empowerment tool, guaranteeing decent employment.

This framework circumvents the intrinsic fragility of the independent worker's status, subject to isolation and precariousness. The collective and inclusive organisation of cooperative community-oriented enterprises or business and employment co-operatives overcomes the individual limits to funding access, offers guidance and the exchange of good practices, and provides workers with greater independence.

For example, the Mutuelle pour le Développement à la Base is an inclusive finance experiment in Benin via which workers pool their savings to obtain loans.

Vocational integration organisations provide long-term support to individuals distanced from employment by guiding them towards sectors with identified needs, such as the professions required for environmental transition. This is the case of the agro-ecological guild scheme by the French non-profit group Fermes d'Avenir, which offers an 8-month immersive and individualised training programme.

SSE bodies overcome certain public authority shortcomings by removing social obstacles. They provide concrete responses to workers' needs, through social welfare and childcare systems.

In the name of the democratic values it defends, the SSE must continue to develop initiatives enabling the inclusion of disabled persons, whether within specialised organisations, or by adapting work conditions.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The BordeauxGSEF2025 goodies (wooden badge and telephone holder) were produced by workers from Adapei 33, an association created by parents which promotes and defends the interests of persons of all ages with an intellectual, mental or autistic disability, and in all aspects of their life.

This effort to guarantee decent work will gain in effectiveness with the support of public authorities, who must promote inclusive and collective economic models or encourage cooperation with social welfare systems.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Presented by Laurent Grandguillaume, the Territoires Zéro Chômeurs de Longue Durée [Regions for Zero Long-Term Unemployed] demonstrated that on a very localised level and without excessive additional costs for authorities, it is possible to provide the long-term unemployed with a permanent contract on chosen working hours, by developing useful activities meeting regional needs.

Our imperative must be that no-one seeking decent work is deprived of this opportunity. This promise can be kept with a permanent employment scheme, funded by the State and managed locally, also known as The Job Guarantee. The scheme offers employment opportunities on a vital minimum wage to any person in need, regardless of their situation.

Pavlina TCHERNEVA, President of the Levy Economics Institute and professor of economics at Bard University, USA

A LEADING LIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE WORKPLACE

The SSE offers more democratic forms of governance than traditional companies. One such example is Duralex, transformed into a worker cooperative in 2024, where the principle of "one person, one vote" guides direct participation by associated members in collective decisions.

However, the SSE continues to suffer from an inconsistency between aims and real practices, and many organisations tend to reproduce a type of management that corresponds to the demands of a market economy and is based on male practices. Active participation in decisions is subject to power relations which tend to become obscured by the invocation of the equality principle.

It is by ensuring that anyone who so wishes can contribute to discussions and voice their needs that SSE players can create a truly democratic work environment. Democracy and equality are not acquired simply through decree, they must be forged constantly through dialogue and mutual listening, as illustrated by the rich discussions during Bordeaux GSEF 2025.



PATHWAY 4

Working Together: Cooperation, Territories and Public Action



36 ROUNDTABLES



194 SPEAKERS

More than just a value, cooperation structures the operations and growth of the Social and Solidarity Economy. Co-working and horizontal listening, despite stakeholders' heterogeneity, are the pre-requisites for implementing solutions adapted to local needs. Bordeaux GSEF 2025, like all the previous editions, enabled collaborative and cross-border projects to be initiated between participants.

STRUCTURING FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION

Cooperation between SSE organisations and their impact depends on collective structuring. Network leaders play an essential role. They act as intermediaries and supervise the shaping of a response adapted to local issues by bringing structures with in-depth knowledge of on-the-ground realities together and ensuring that every voice is heard. These intermediary bodies must continue to develop; all too often overlooked, they are nevertheless essential links in the SSE chain.

Managing to involve all regional stakeholders in decisions takes time. You must adapt to local specificities, identify the forces present and work from the basis of citizens' needs. This task requires ongoing awareness efforts with the general public and more particularly young people, a crucial factor in the building of resilient and appropriate solutions.

The creation of working groups ensures solid collaboration. These networks open spaces devoted to knowledge-sharing, solutions and challenges to address. These collective bodies may also be theme-based to boost SSE stakeholders' skills. Their effectiveness nevertheless depends on shared governance and a multi-tiered approach. Such forms of collaboration also facilitate relations with public players, enabling co-built public policies, focused on the region's specific aspects.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The REMCESS (Network of Cameroon Mayors for Social and Solidarity Economy) brings together local authorities who recognise the SSE as an essential tool for local development and wish to actively support its growth. The network implements advocacy actions and provides member mayors with specific technical support necessary for the development of SSE in their areas.

PUBLIC ACTION, THE CORNERSTONE OF COOPERATION

Si les initiatives de l'ESS existent depuis longtemps dans les communautés, la reconnaissance et l'intervention des pouvoirs publics restent capitales pour un ancrage fort dans le territoire. C'est notamment le cas en Amérique latine, où les initiatives sont bien souvent celles des populations autochtones, visant leur autonomisation et leur souveraineté.

The local economy can only grow if SSE players work together as an ecosystem.

Hadianto Rasyid, Mayor of Palu, Indonesia

The public sector avails of several tools to build solid ecosystems. Public policies are essential levers to reassert the key role of the SSE as a local growth driver and provide it with high-profile backing. For example, active public policy support for the SSE of the Pays de Grasse conurbation (France) enabled the creation of sustainable employment in the perfume sector in the town's priority districts via funding schemes. The support provided by the Quebec government to strategic sectors of the social economy further to the enactment of the latest Social Economy Action Plan is another example.

Use of public procurement is a highly beneficial and particularly effective lever for the longevity and momentum of local SSE, notably by opening access to reserved markets or responsible procurement clauses. One example of this drive to include the SSE in public procurement is the adoption of the Scheme to Promote Environmentally and Socially Responsible Purchases (SPASER) by Bordeaux Métropole.

CLIMBING THE SCALABILITY LADDER

In order to disseminate SSE practices and strengthen the structures and networks already in place, cooperation must continue to develop on various scales. The aim of local authority SSE networks, such as REMCESS, RTES, REMBESS or REVESS is to bolster advocacy, acknowledge the role of authorities and encourage local SSE support policies.

Creating a national network is a particularly strategic move, along with the implementation of framework laws ensuring the long-term viability of SSE structures.

The setting-up of crossborder spaces boosting the SSE, such as the cooperation between the Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Navarra and Euskadi regions, provides a new form of experience sharing between the parties involved.

While Europe boasts proactive countries in the development of the SSE, such as France or Portugal, satisfactory cooperation on the scale of the European Union has yet to be achieved. The structures and principles which constitute the SSE are still largely unfamiliar to many people, and significant efforts must be made to inform leaders and citizens - especially young people - and demonstrate the extent to which the SSE irrigates all sectors and ecosystems. According to the latest Eurobarometer survey published in October 2025, 88% of Europe-born citizens are in favour of boosting support for the SSE, which demonstrates the need to contribute to the economic development of SSE structures, essential for citizens in various areas of their daily lives.

Cooperation between Northern and Southern countries should take the form of partnerships, rather than unilateral aid which generally leads to a welfare logic. By taking local contexts truly into consideration, the SSE can be bolstered by these alliances, as it gains in political recognition when responding to communities' needs.

Inversely, by applying the same principles of approach through a decolonial prism, the SSE can renew international cooperation, by contributing to a redefinition of the UN International Agencies' roles, or to the organisation of equitable exchanges. Defending migrants' rights and respecting universal rights must also form part of the SSE common foundation. Cooperation is a process which needs to be built on a daily basis and at every level. It is the guarantor of a vibrant and democratic Social and Solidarity Economy.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

An innovative project launched in 2024 links the ESS ecosystems of Brittany (France) and Togo. Led by the non-profit group Xylm and the NGO STADD, this partnership pools the expertise of local players, cooperatives and public organisations. The aim of this crossborder dialogue is to boost the capacities of both ecosystems and transform economic models on a local scale to address the regions' common challenges. This cooperation notably enabled the setting-up of a 3-year waste management and recycling project across the two regions.



PATHWAY 5

Empowering People: Autonomy for All



27 ROUNDTABLES



131 SPEAKERS

If the SSE is to uphold its values and commitments, it must ensure that all voices are heard and listened to. This requires a profound questioning of SSE bodies' organisation and practices, which remain all too often similar to those of the conventional economy, reproducing power and exclusion mechanisms. Education is the pillar of this project, to train present and future stakeholders to work horizontally. Support adapted to local contexts will also enable the most exploited populations (i.e., women and young people) to gain in independence.

By providing everyone with opportunities to develop ideas and projects, the SSE will offer a genuine space for cooperation and democracy.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Training in this field must clarify the very notion of SSE, shatter preconceived ideas and make it understood that we are members of a global movement, both for beneficiaries and funders, particularly public institutions.

The Western educational model can be redesigned with and for the SSE, to restore innovative popular education methods at its core. Education in the transitions of a changing world offers a way to develop critical thinking, creativity and the ability to act from an early age.

Education must drive empowerment and social ties, particularly through learning to work as a group. Integrating the values of horizontality and co-building, while adapting to local contexts, will enable this empowerment. Valuing experience rather than focusing solely on theory provides young learners with the ability to act, while strengthening inter-generational ties.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The ACC'ESS student cooperative is a professionalisation learning tool for ESSIS Master students at Sciences Po Bordeaux. It introduces students to the management of a commercial cooperative structure by recreating spaces for "working together" from a community-learning approach.

The media also serves as tool for education and awareness. In a dense media world guided by attention-grabbing news, there is, in parallel, a large demand for positive journalism. The SSE can draw on this, in terms of popularised content demonstrating that the SSE enables recovery after disasters, and in terms of format, offering new perspectives on topics already covered.

FROM FORMAL EQUALITY TO TRUE EQUALITY

The assertion of democracy within the SSE does not imply genuine equality between men, women and gender minorities. There is a higher proportion of women in the SSE, but they are concentrated in low-skill, precarious jobs, particularly in care professions. In France, the glass ceiling is even more prevalent in the private sector outside of the SSE, and managerial practices are often based on masculinity.

Equality tends to be forgotten, because it is taken for granted, and the gendered social relations found within the SSE, like the rest of society, are thus obscured. Women and gender minorities must be given the same decision-making power as men. Women must be active players in decision-making, to ensure better education, fairer distribution of assets and to contribute to the financial and social security of all.

Care must nevertheless be taken not to confine the fight for gender equality to white European feminist movements. This fight must be intersectional and adapted to local contexts. In the framework of RIPESS (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy), Valeska Sarmiento works alongside numerous Latin American and Caribbean women, applying this intersectional and decolonial approach to include indigenous women notably in SSE developments and actions led in the field.

SSE must be a model in the quest for true equality, capable of tackling existing social obstacles head on. This implies rethinking the organisation of SSE structures and the patriarchal and post-colonial practices at play. Involving men in this process is key. Beyond the role of simple allies, they must integrate gender issues in organisational developments. We must thus continue to encourage initiatives supporting the independence and empowerment of women within communities and organisations.

QUEER ART, A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE SSE

Queer art shatters established codes and opens new areas of freedom. It therefore shares the values of the Social and Solidarity Economy on a deep level. The SSE would benefit from drawing on this art, as it drives change and social transformation by daring to experiment with alternative and subversive forms of struggle.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

In Montreal, Quebec, the nighttime cultural entrepreneurship programme, Noctambule, provides spaces in the Quartier Jeunesse premises to LGBTQIA+ artists, enabling them to develop their art, create their artistic character and practise performing. The programme also offers training in project management (budget, technical aspects), aimed at helping participants to develop their nighttime performance business safely.

YOUTH AND SSE

The SSE offers young people an opportunity for fulfilment. Creating social impact, solidarity, cooperation, democratic governance and equality correspond to the meaningful values young people seek from their job. This is the case for example with youth cooperatives, which turn entrepreneurial ambitions into reality, whether through economic activism or a questioning of traditional forms of entrepreneurship. These cooperatives foster democratic and civic education principles while addressing the challenge of precariousness which young people all too often face.

Young people are already actively engaged, and more than 30% of them have devoted time to a community organisation. They simply need to be provided with the tools that will enable them to boost their skills and become more effective. Support is key in developing the power to act, while ensuring that this guidance is neither patronising nor overly top-down. The drafting of a charter for youth support could provide a concrete and appropriate solution.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

JuventudESS Activas, a Latin American-wide initiative, is a collective action platform designed to involve youth in the creation of fairer, more inclusive, alternative models. Its purpose is to place young people at the heart of decision-making and shift from subordinate working relations to enable them to better steer their future projects.

While the SSE represents a rich opportunity for young people, the opposite is also true. It is vital to include them in decision-making and spaces for reflection on the future of SSE, because they can bring creativity and ingenuity to the table, offering fresh perspectives on subjects such as governance or work life quality. We must place our trust in youth and leave them room to participate freely. Building awareness of the SSE in higher education spheres is also essential, as they are fertile grounds for the development of SSE initiatives.

We call upon governments, institutions, local authorities and SSE actors to fully recognise youth as a force for transformation, capable of prioritising cooperation and solidarity to address the major social, economic and environmental challenges of our time.

Excerpt from the International Youth Declaration for the SSE, delivered at the closing ceremony of BordeauxGSEF2025



PATHWAY 6

Caring: The SSE as a Key Provider of Social Services



18 ROUNDTABLES



87 SPEAKERS

SSE is structurally at the core of health and social welfare services. The majority of care-related work is devalued and relegated to women and racialized populations from working classes. Discussions during Bordeaux GSEF 2025 called for another approach to the ways we “provide care” and the creation of new collective models which are neither limited to compensating for State shortfalls nor perpetuating precarious working conditions.

A FAILING SYSTEM TO BE REDESIGNED TOGETHER

The healthcare field currently faces many hurdles, whether political, legal, economic or psycho-sociological. The SSE has a key role to play in addressing these issues, which are often perceived individually when they can be considered collectively.

Public policies, users and economic stakeholders must play an active part in this co-building, and offer inclusive, agile and innovative solutions based on inter-knowledge and value sharing. This will enable efficient and impactful cooperation that benefits from the expertise of all parties to build a sustainable and inclusive healthcare model.

Individuals must be considered as co-players of their health and not only as beneficiaries. We must thus encourage holistic and participative approaches which re-empower workers, inhabitants and users, while decompartmentalising public policies. The SSE can also draw on this cooperation to advocate a universal right to social protection, co-built via multi-player alliances and participative governance.

Health is inherently linked to local context, as there are wide disparities in terms of access to care according to the region. The SSE must boost its ability to act on local levels, particularly in rural areas, and to offer solutions adapted to each specific issue.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Santé Sud is an international solidarity organisation committed to the right to health for all, working to strengthen healthcare systems in the long term and empower populations. Santé Sud works to provide medical care in rural areas, in the face of the unequal distribution of healthcare professionals, and to improve access to healthcare for people living in the most isolated regions. It offers various programmes and projects to redirect healthcare professionals to rural areas.

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

The hidden part of the healthcare iceberg is the people, or rather the women, providing that care. Care lies at the heart of our economic system, but suffers from a lack of visibility as it is relegated to women and racialized populations from working classes. While the SSE is largely feminised - 68% of SSE jobs in France are held by women, the majority of which are in care structures - it is a democratic duty to denounce the precarious nature of these jobs, which are mainly part-time and poorly paid. The skills required to provide care are mistakenly perceived as naturally feminine, and are consequently undervalued. Taking a global and collective approach to care requires reconsidering the living conditions of caregivers. Beyond the healthcare, social action and education sectors, care can be seen as a principle for collective organisation.

Mutualism plays a strategic role in care development, not only for its concrete presence in the field, but also for its potential to contribute to the cultural transformation of the caregiving role.

Marie Fernanda Sigliano, *Odema*

Such is the case for mutualism based on three pillars, i.e., prevention, care and social action, which aims to form a lever against health inequality by pooling resources to fund services and ensure access to healthcare for all. Thanks to locally-adapted democratic participation approaches and attentiveness to members, the quality of patients' and caregivers' lives are preserved. It remains difficult, however, for the mutualist movement to stand out amid lucrative insurers and rising taxes which reduce its scopes of action.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

Founded in Buenos Aires, the NGO Odema (Organización de Entidades Mutuales de las Américas), brings together mutualist organisations in the Americas. It provides visibility to their actions, particularly among international institutions such as the UN or ILO, and strengthens the network of mutual organisations on a continental scale. Structuring the American mutualist movement is the foundation stone for a worldwide mutualist network.

EXTENDING CARE TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Providing care is not limited to health; it encompasses a multitude of social services.

Housing is a crucial issue. Housing must be a right and accessible to all. Many populations, however, especially young and elderly people, continue to face indecent living conditions due to a lack of financial means. The SSE offers a non-speculative alternative, enabling access to affordable housing adapted to all. Providing decent accommodation, where a person feels comfortable and can create ties, is a way to restore dignity to these populations through housing. In order to achieve this, the universal right to housing must be established. Concrete local initiatives are already being led in close collaboration with beneficiaries, such as the Louvain eco-district in Montreal, which combines affordable accommodation, environmental transition and social justice, under shared governance.

The SSE must also be present throughout all life stages. Death is an act of social life and shared humanity, and the final days are a fertile ground for social ties and cooperation. SSE values offer a new context to accompany these final moments and bereavement. Funeral co-ops aim to restore power to families in the organisation of their loved ones' funerals, by offering a collective alternative in a sector which remains dominated by major private groups. They work within regional projects and explore partnerships with mutual funds, local authorities and personal assistance organisations to gradually transform the funerary sector. Initial experiments date from the 1940s in Quebec and have been developing in France for the last ten years.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The UrbaMonde organisation strives to empower inhabitants in the production and management of their housing, as well as to develop participative housing projects on a local and international level. They have contributed, for example, to strengthening the participative housing movement in Bangladesh and Indonesia, or the development of housing cooperatives in Nicaragua.

"Providing care" can and must be considered from a broad and collective perspective, and the initiatives presented at Bordeaux GSEF 2025 are proof of this.



PATHWAY 7

Imagining a Desirable Future: Innovation, Impact and New Narratives



19 ROUNDTABLES



94 SPEAKERS

The porosity between the SSE and social innovation requires strong hybrid institutional and financial support, in addition to impact assessments adapted to their social goal. Our duty is to give a voice to the bold players of today and tomorrow shaping a new, fairer world which is more inclusive and desirable.

INNOVATING IN SOCIAL INNOVATION SUPPORT

The SSE offers an ideal ground for social innovation, as its structures aim to meet social needs rather than generate profit. Inversely, social innovation drives SSE renewal, via adaptation to new issues such as environmental transition or an ageing population.

Funding development is a challenge shared by social innovation and the SSE. The building of a truly fertile environment for these projects requires intervention on the part of public authorities to promote social innovation models through strategic public communication, and the use of common, co-built impact assessment methods. The scale of social innovation also depends on dedicated public policy support, as well as the presence of identifiable and accessible hybrid funding networks.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The European-wide CRAFT programme was set up to create effective support ecosystems for social innovation projects, and to build collaborative communities of practice on local, national and international levels. The CRAFT scheme does not fund social projects directly, but boosts the structures supporting these projects, such as the Impact Hub in Austria.

Research fuels social innovation when the conditions of this co-building enable a planned, long-term process, trusted interaction and stable financing.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The Shanti Association in Tunisia set up three multi-player mechanisms involving universities, local authorities and SSE organisations to test collective solutions and boost knowledge production. It aims to provide legitimate weight to social innovation and reach public authorities and citizens via universities.

When it succeeds in avoiding the pitfalls of total integration in market logics, social innovation enables us to question perceptions and venture off beaten tracks.

IMPACT BEYOND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Assessing impact represents a key challenge in the development and legitimisation of the SSE. Providing figures lends credibility to the scope of action and illustrates the activities of SSE organisations while striving to rethink an impact evaluation which highlights cooperation and transformation and not simply financial gains.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

In Barcelona, impact is seen from a public and regional perspective. The city helps SSE players to access resources and measurement tools, fostering collaboration between the SSE, public authorities and research. Impact measurement is seen here not as a diagnosis, but as an analysis of the inclusive and innovative potential of the local economy.

Producing data and impact assessments must not be carried out over the short term. This implies developing a process culture rooted in the long-term and involving all stakeholders. Documentation on co-building processes must be built up and methodologies promoted to make assessment tools useful and usable for all players. There is a wide variety of approaches to impact assessment, and efforts are needed to bring these methods together to foster a shared culture.

Collaboration with research is also required to create a genuine link between raw data and analyses to be disseminated. The SSE can call on small universities to promote alternative academic paths; one such example being Quebec University in Chicoutimi.

In a world focused on figures and economic performance, SSE organisations, which provide many jobs, must publish and update these figures regularly in order to attract the attention of politicians and the media. The publishing format is also highly important; figures must be interactive and appealing to the general public.

SSE AND DIGITAL

SSE stakeholders can contribute to a more inclusive, responsible, sustainable and local digital transition. The general public must be educated so that we may distance ourselves from digital giants such as GAFAM. The SSE must seize this opportunity to offer alternatives such as TeleCoop, a platform-pooling initiative which lists cooperative platforms that can replace the GAFAM. The digital sphere must also be re-examined, so that the primary goal is no longer financial, but to serve populations.

BUILDING COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES AND NEVER GIVING UP ON UTOPIA

The SSE is a fertile ground for collective narratives, sometimes utopian and leaving room for imagination. The world of the future must be invented with the SSE. To do this, we must document and share experiences collectively, and clearly identify problems to provide the most appropriate solutions. Drawing on indigenous traditions and pre-capitalist communities could help us to invent alternative societies. It is important to embrace several narratives and forms of narration in order to reach the widest number of citizens and avoid perpetuating a certain form of exclusivity.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The SSE in South Africa adopted the notion of the “rainbow society”, coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to imagine a South African society in which groups would live alongside each other in peace. The idea is to pursue this effort to enable different communities to work together, ensuring populations worldwide feel included and take active part in local initiatives.

A new approach to time must also be considered. Despite the apparent urgency to act, we must take the time to reflect if we are to return to a more reasoned society. For example, the Sommet de l'Économie Sociale au Québec [Social Economy in Quebec Summit] took some two years to organise, but enabled a wide range of stakeholders to come together and represent Quebec society in all its diversity with players from the SSE and its halo.

INSPIRING INITIATIVE

The Preston model is an initiative led by Matthew Brown, Mayor of a medium-sized, post-industrial town in the north of England. The project stemmed from his realisation that the town's activities did not benefit the local economy. By developing a new economic model, centred around cooperation, cohesion and social justice, the model aimed to trigger more endogenous and local growth. The city council thus reallocated public spending and encouraged the development of local, cooperative businesses. Several years later, the results are fairly positive and promising, with a visible improvement in social and environmental conditions.

In an alarming world context of growing right-wing extremism and authoritarian regimes, the multitude of initiatives and rich discussions at Bordeaux GSEF 2025 demonstrated that the SSE is a source of solutions, hope and imagination. It is also capable of self-criticism and taking stock of its shortcomings, as part of an ongoing democratic process. The next forum in Maricá will pursue the efforts to encourage and give visibility to the inclusive, egalitarian and cooperative practices needed to build a new world.

Brazil welcomes with open arms all those who believe in the building of a fairer, more human and egalitarian world.

Diego Zeidan, *representative of the City of Maricá, Brazil*



16H00

Déclaration de la jeunesse

International Youth Declaration
Declaración Internacional de la

Ville de
BORDEAUX

BORDEAUX
MÉTROPOLÉ

Gironde
Département

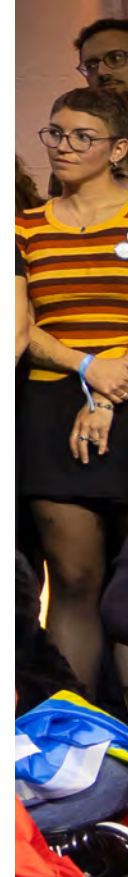
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Bordeaux GSEF 2025 Declaration

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We, 10,800 participants, representing 907 cities and 109 countries, gathered here at the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum in Bordeaux, declare that the Social and Solidarity Economy is a project of social transformation.

We are living in dystopian times. Seven of the nine planetary boundaries have been crossed; inequalities within countries are increasing; not since 1946 has the world experienced so many conflicts; and democracies are in retreat. The future has yet to be written.

Between 2021 and 2024, the Social and Solidarity Economy gained significant international recognition. International institutions, beginning with the United Nations, have fully acknowledged its role in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Admittedly, this recognition has not yet been matched with the resources required to meet these ambitions. Moreover, it now risks being undermined by the crisis of multilateralism.

But the Social and Solidarity Economy operates over the long term. It is resilient in the face of crises and challenges the dominant capitalist model. Today, it bears the responsibility of rekindling the ideals of the Philadelphia Declaration, reminding the world that lasting peace can only be achieved when founded upon social justice.

We affirm that the Social and Solidarity Economy is an economy of dialogue and peace — peace among peoples, peace within nations, and peace with all living beings on which we depend.

The Social and Solidarity Economy is a stabilizing force. Through its principles of cooperation and solidarity, it reduces tensions and inequalities by responding to community needs and maintaining social cohesion. Its resilience has been demonstrated in every crisis — from the subprime crisis to the COVID-19 pandemic, through ecological crises and armed conflicts — where the SSE has contributed to prevention, reconstruction, and reconciliation.

However, the Social and Solidarity Economy is not limited to repairing the world's disorders. Present on every continent, it envisions and experiments with desirable futures, offering a constructive response to the aspirations of younger generations. It is a movement for economic democracy that is rebuilding the commons in the face of ongoing attempts by the hyper-rich to maintain the status quo.

Driven by social movements, civil society, and collective enterprises, the Social and Solidarity Economy is a revitalizing force for our democracies. It fights for and protects economic and social rights, including women's rights, preserves freedoms in public space, particularly for independent media, and provides cooperative alternatives to digital monopolies and meaningful responses to the climate emergency.

The Social and Solidarity Economy offers pathways towards a just ecological transition. It is an efficient economic actor that treats material and immaterial resources not as assets to be exploited, but as goods to be renewed. It offers individuals and communities a role, empowering them through democratic control, economic participation, and education for emancipation and collective responsibility.

In the face of the crisis of States, whose foundations have been eroded by decades of neoliberal policies, we must strengthen coalitions between cities and the Social and Solidarity Economy, in the spirit of the Quito Declaration, which sought to foster inclusive economic development and decent work.

From all continents, we declare our shared goal to strengthen our practices in order to address territorial challenges, accelerate the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy, and reaffirm our commitment to work together towards the socio-ecological transition that our world urgently requires.

More than ever, we must co-construct and co-produce transformative policies to reintegrate the economy within society.

We commit to:

- Build upon the unprecedented mobilization of GSEF2025 by strengthening efforts within our territories to raise awareness and recognition of the SSE and its objectives.
- Organize and mobilize as a citizen-led, transformative movement working towards a more equitable, sustainable, and democratic economy, raising awareness and engaging with public and civil society actors who can contribute to the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy and to the necessary socio-ecological transition.
- Increase and accelerate efforts to create enabling ecosystems and to develop Social and Solidarity Economy projects in our territories using all available resources.
- Draw inspiration from best practices through the creation of a platform for Social and Solidarity Economy and cities initiatives, to strengthen their viability and impact.
- Deepen relations with other international networks of mayors to promote Social and Solidarity Economy values and policies.
- Reaffirm the importance of citizen participation and social dialogue for innovation and community resilience, and ensure inclusive participation — especially of youth and underrepresented groups — in Social and Solidarity Economy initiatives and governance structures.
- Support individual and collective well-being across all territories, including in communities of origin for migrants displaced by conflict and climate crises, as well as in host communities.
- Refuse to submit to systems and regimes that restrict freedoms and social, economic, and political rights.
- Strengthen alliances among networks to speak with one unified voice on the international stage.
- Foster intercooperation among Social and Solidarity Economy families and members to support territorial development and build coalitions with those working towards the same objectives.
- Promote direct and equitable international partnerships between funders and funded organizations.
- Support the international momentum for recognition of the Social and Solidarity Economy and the organizations that advance it, and reinforce dialogue with civil society globally.
- Contribute to the cultural and educational emancipation of populations to deepen awareness of the interdependence between economic, social, and environmental objectives.

We call upon:

The United Nations and International Organizations

- Continue analysis and dissemination to advance knowledge of the Social and Solidarity Economy among States.
- Continue encouraging countries to adopt policies that support the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy.
- Establish dedicated internal mechanisms specifically focused on the Social and Solidarity Economy.
- Create a Multi-Stakeholder Organization for Fair and Equitable Exchanges.

The European Union

The SSE embodies the values of the European Union, as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty. This commitment must now, more than ever, be strengthened:

- Uphold and maintain the commitments made under the Social Economy Action Plan and the Council Recommendation of 27 November 2023.
- Promote the Social Economy not only within the EU but also in its relations with non-member countries, with particular attention to regions with association and/or trade agreements.
- Include the Social Economy among the priorities of all EU policies and programs, regardless of their general objectives or territorial scope.
- Preserve a significant place for the promotion of the Social Economy within the multiannual financial framework.
- Keep the Social Economy at the heart of social, economic, and territorial cohesion policies.
- Develop a specific and coherent legal and fiscal framework for the Social Economy.

States

- Adopt laws recognizing, promoting, and supporting the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy within their territories.
- Establish and invest in co-construction spaces with the Social and Solidarity Economy to design public policies and programs addressing societal challenges where the Social and Solidarity Economy can make unique and transformative contributions.
- Support the financing of the SSE by increasing its share in national and international public policies.
- Ensure that SSE financing tools are rooted in its values.



Ensure fair access for Social and Solidarity Economy enterprises to public procurement and economic development programs.

Ensure that sectoral (employment, health, housing, education, etc.) and cross-cutting policies (green economy, circular economy, silver economy, etc.) recognize the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy and its actors in implementation.

Recognize the Social and Solidarity Economy as a driving force for social innovation and progress.

Implement a green job guarantee to contribute to ecological transition by creating decent work within the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Support international dialogue on the Social and Solidarity Economy by ensuring dedicated expertise and resources within international institutions.

Rely on universities to advance education, training, and research on the Social and Solidarity Economy, with attention to developing better data and knowledge sharing.

Develop coordinated and funded programs between States and local governments to support the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Local Governments

Recognize and support co-governance spaces for the Social and Solidarity Economy as essential for strengthening the SSE at the territorial level.

Recognize and sustain citizen-led initiatives advancing the common good through the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Promote local initiatives supporting fair trade.

Recognize and promote the Social and Solidarity Economy as a key instrument for participatory democracy.

Strengthen partnerships between cities and the Social and Solidarity Economy to address migration challenges.

Implement ecosystemic strategies based on territorial dynamics of the Social and Solidarity Economy.



From left to right: Stéphane Pfeiffer, Jinkyung Choi, Marguerite Mendell, Denise Fatoumata Ndour, Antonella Noya, Leandro Morais, Fabienne Oré-Courregelongue

Declaration delivered at the closing ceremony of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum at the Palais de l'Atlantique in Bordeaux on October 31, 2025, by:

- Mr. Timothée Duverger, *President of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Scientific Committee, France*
 Ms. Marguerite Mendell, *Director of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy and Professor at Concordia University, Quebec, Canada*
 Mr. Stéphane Montuzet, *President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France*
 Ms. Aude Saldana, *Secretary General of the GSEF*
 Mr. Leandro Morais, *Professor-Researcher at São Paulo State University, Brazil*
 Ms. Nancy Neamtan, *Co-founder of Le Chantier de l'Économie Sociale, Quebec, Canada*
 Mr. Stéphane Pfeiffer, *Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of SSE, Urban Planning, and Housing, France*
 Mr. Cheikh Gueye, *Mayor of the Commune of Dieuppeul-Derkle, Dakar, Senegal*
 Ms. Antonella Noya, *Former Head of Unit at the OECD, Italy*
 Mr. Antoine Détourné, *General Delegate of ESS France*
 Ms. Denise Fatoumata Ndour, *General Administrator of Sen'Finances, Senegal*
 Ms. Fabienne Oré-Courregelongue, *Coordinator of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum, France*
 Ms. Jinkyung Choi, *Senior Program Manager, Korea Social Value and Solidarity Foundation – SVS Foundation, South Korea*
 Ms. Maud Caruhel, *Vice-President for SSE and Circular Economy, Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, France*



Declaration for lasting peace

The transformative role of the SSE in fostering peace, inclusion, and resilience

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In a growing number of countries, women, men, children, and Nature are victims of war and acts of genocide. Regardless of their origins (ethnic, political, or economic conflicts), the consequences are the same: destruction, deprivation, poverty, hunger, disease, disability, and death on a massive scale.

This is unacceptable.

In some contexts, these realities are accompanied by grave breaches of international humanitarian law and serious violations of international human rights law, including acts that may constitute crimes under international law, and by denials of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Such conflicts could be avoided—if we firmly moved away from the predatory and destructive economic model promoted by leaders unable to steer our countries toward a peaceful, democratic, and protective path based on cooperation.

A radical shift is necessary.

The weakening or absence of democracy, resulting in the marginalization of citizens in social and economic decision-making, is a sign of the deprivation of people's right to decide. Economic citizenship is a key issue for restoring a full and genuine democracy.

The absence of democracy in a country's economic system weakens the role of citizens and relegates them to the background. They become adjustment variables serving the goals of a wealthy few, far removed from the common good.

The lack of accountability in the structure of capitalist enterprises prevents their owners from feeling the direct impacts of their operations. The abuse of workers and harms committed against communities and nature result from decision-making structures that place control in the hands of distant owners motivated by profit. Such structures provide no voice for the needs and interests of workers, local communities, or nature itself.

The lack of an international policy aimed at achieving equity, redistributing wealth stolen through exploitation, and guaranteeing access to quality education and opportunity undermines cooperation and solidarity. Instead, it fosters competition, division, and a denial of our shared humanity. The dominant economic model turns people into isolated consumers rather than engaged citizens. In turn, in a growing number of countries, more and more people have become susceptible to isolationist and authoritarian agendas that thrive on fear of difference, deny accountability, and deepen inequality.

The lack of international ambition to mitigate the effects of climate change increases the burden of climate hazards on all of humanity—but especially on the poorest. Globally, developing countries—the least responsible for climate change—are paying the price for the selfish political and economic choices made by Western countries. At the national level, it is again the poorest—the least responsible—who are the first victims: pollution, flooding, drought...



The absence of international regulation over the use of natural resources, coupled with the reckless overconsumption by developed countries, leads to resource destruction, competition between peoples for access to the spoils of exploitation, and a general weakening of societies. Water, air, forests—when exploited solely for private profit—generate conflict born of survival and trap developing nations in a state of dependency on wealthier countries.

We, organizations and local governments committed to the Social and Solidarity Economy, gathered at the 7th GSEF Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum in Bordeaux, call—out of humanity and solidarity—for an end to ongoing conflicts and the construction of an international collective project based on cooperation, intercultural dialogue, harmony, and the protection of Life.

As reflected in resolutions of the International Labour Conference (2022) and the United Nations General Assembly (2023 and 2024), the SSE can contribute to peace, prevention, recovery and reconciliation by retaining value locally, supporting livelihoods, and rebuilding trust through participation and shared benefit. It strengthens inclusion, decent work and social protection, advances care, education and cultural services, promotes environmental stewardship and just transitions, and helps to organize fair and resilient supply chains. SSE entities can also provide safe and dignified opportunities for people in vulnerable situations, including women, young people, migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities, and support pathways from informality to formality in line with international labour standards.

Building on these recognitions, we assert that the Social and Solidarity Economy—based on cooperation rather than competition, on equitable wealth distribution rather than accumulation by a powerful minority, on respect for natural resources rather than their financial exploitation, on mutual understanding rather than opposition, and on economic democracy rather than mass exploitation—is a major and essential response to preventing conflict, rebuilding, and reconciliation. The SSE carries within it the spirit of social justice that underpins our international institutions—now under strain.

Without social justice, there can be no understanding or cooperation. SSE is, without doubt, an economy of peace. Whether in times of prevention, resistance, reconstruction, or reconciliation, while it may not solve all problems, we affirm that the Social and Solidarity Economy fosters peaceful human relationships and social cohesion both globally and locally.

Compelling examples:

- When SSE enables citizens to reclaim their economic citizenship by becoming decision-makers, it fosters empowerment and cooperation.
- When SSE organizes the governance of commons by proposing tools for the collective management and sharing of resources, it creates the conditions for the sustainable use of those resources, respecting both people and Nature.
- When SSE redistributes and shares the wealth produced—especially with workers, but also with communities—it strengthens solidarity and social justice.
- When SSE fosters cooperation among individuals, regardless of their social or ethnic backgrounds, it nurtures intercultural understanding and respect, both essential for peace and harmonious relations among peoples.
- When SSE supports the development of fair trade partnerships in local and global value chains, specifically through rural women-led cooperatives, it enables better incomes for producers. When SSE goes even further, by localizing processing close to the source of raw materials through cooperatives, it furthers the aims of decolonization by generating quality work, developing skills, and maximizing the retention of community wealth, ending the era of global wealth extraction from the Global South to the Global North.
- When SSE gives people in communities the power to act, it creates the conditions for cooperation and a virtuous social dialogue, allowing for the arbitration of conflicts that promotes social, economic, and environmental justice.
- When SSE ensures that newcomers are welcomed with dignity and promotes the inclusion of the most vulnerable, it contributes to strengthening social bonds and our capacity to live together.
- When SSE entities play a pivotal role in supporting forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities through inclusive governance, participatory approaches, and community-based service delivery, these entities create access to decent work, social protection, and economic empowerment.
- When technological issues and the use of AI lead to new forms of population control, the SSE offers an ethical response to data processing to shape our digital futures.

We, actors and supporters of the Social and Solidarity Economy, including workers, producers, users, communities and their organizations, together with representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and international and regional institutions, are organized collectively and in solidarity to improve living conditions for all, in respect of all Life. It is a vast citizen movement advocating for a society based on solidarity, respect, kindness, sharing, and cooperation.

We, citizens gathered in Bordeaux at this 7th edition of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, therefore call on leaders to act with responsibility, to create conditions conducive to peace, and to urgently engage in a transition toward a resilient, fair, redistributive, and democratic economic model—of which the Social and Solidarity Economy can be the foundation.

We ask the GSEF to convene, following BordeauxGSEF2025, a working group whose purpose will be to explore the topics mentioned above in greater depth and to propose recommendations and operational measures for implementing this declaration.

We call on all networks and organizations to take action on this issue and make it a priority.

Declaration delivered at the closing ceremony of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum at the Palais de l'Atlantique in Bordeaux on October 31, 2025, by:

Mr. Ahmed GALAI, 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Tunisia

Ms. Merem TAHAR, Special Youth Envoy of the 15th President of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, France



Merem Tahar and Ahmed Galai / Photo: Thomas Sanson for the City of Bordeaux



International Youth Declaration for the SSE

[Download the Declaration](#)[The Declaration in video](#)

Preamble

Shaped through intercultural dialogue and collective work, this International Youth Declaration for the SSE expresses not only the proposals to achieve **the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, but also conveys the conviction that the SSE is a structuring path for social, environmental, political, economic and inner transitions.

Presented on 31 October during the closing ceremony of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, Bordeaux GSEF 2025, this Declaration is addressed to political decision-makers and international networks, so that it may be heard, recognised, and integrated into public policies and organizations to build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable world.

Building on the internationally recognised frameworks for the SSE and the 2030 Agenda, it draws its strength from the lived realities of young people across every continent.

Grounded in reports, studies, and field experiences, **the recommendations it contains offer concrete and applicable solutions for national and local governments, continental and regional bodies, as well as SSE organisations and networks.** The references and publications used are presented in the annexes, in a spirit of transparency, coherence, and collective credibility.

Introduction

We, young people from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, are gathered in Bordeaux, united by our diversity and guided by a shared aspiration. We affirm our determination to build a future founded on social justice, sustainability and cooperation.

Facing ecological, economic and democratic crises that threaten our societies, we reject inertia and resignation. We choose the Social and Solidarity Economy as our common horizon, an economy that serves life, dignity and collective well-being.

Our voice is part of a broader history: that of young people who, from Seoul to Montréal, from Bilbao to Mexico, from Dakar to Bordeaux, have made their convictions heard at the Global SSE Forums. This Declaration builds on these mobilisations and brings together the continental youth advocacies developed in 2024 and 2025, through the contributions of young people, networks and partner organisations gathered within the GSEF SSE Youth Hub.

Through six advocacy areas, we present our priorities and recommendations: to live with dignity, to work differently, to learn and act together, to protect the living world, to participate in decision-making, and to build peace and solidarity among peoples.

All over the world, we are already taking action. Together, we want our ideas to shape public policies and our actions to help build societies rooted in justice and resilience.

Our 6 advocacy priorities

1. Living with dignity, fundamental rights and social justice



We, young people of the world, believe in a society where human dignity is not a privilege but a fundamental right. Everywhere, economic, social, gender and territorial inequalities deepen divides and fuel mistrust. We reject precarity, discrimination and systems that leave the most vulnerable behind. The Social and Solidarity Economy proves that it is possible to place social justice at the heart of public policies by recognising the value of care, solidarity and sharing. To live with dignity is to be able to participate fully in community life, to be recognised, protected and free to contribute to a common future.

Our recommendations:

- Strengthen **legislative and policy frameworks** that guarantee universal social protection, equality of rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination.
- Develop **mechanisms for fair wealth redistribution** through just, transparent and solidarity-based taxation.
- Support **local and community initiatives** that promote social inclusion and access to education, health and housing.
- Promote genuine **equality between women and men**, particularly in employment, governance and access to economic resources.
- Ensure the **participation of young people from marginalised groups** in the design and implementation of public policies.

To live with dignity is to build societies that recognise every voice, protect every life and give everyone the opportunity to act and contribute.

2. Working differently, healthy lives and economic empowerment



We refuse to accept that work is synonymous with precarity and dependence. We aspire to jobs that empower us, strengthen our communities and contribute to social justice. The Social and Solidarity Economy opens this path, one built on shared wealth, cooperation and collective responsibility. Through cooperatives, associations and social enterprises that we create, we experiment with other ways of doing : more humane, more democratic and more sustainable. Work is not an end in itself, it is a means of emancipation, of transforming territories and creating a living environment.

Our recommendations:

- Create **national and regional SSE Youth Funds** to support initiatives led by young people, prioritising collective, local and sustainable employment.
- Support **youth-led cooperatives and social enterprises** through mentoring schemes, capacity building and simplified access to public procurement.
- Recognise the **value of voluntary and non-market work** as an essential social and environmental contribution.
- Integrate into employment policies : **mental health, quality of life at work, work-life balance and civic engagement**.
- Promote **training in social and cooperative entrepreneurship** to equip young people with the skills to create meaningful and sustainable jobs.

Working differently means redefining the economy to serve people, communities and the planet.

3. Learning, sharing and acting together



We believe in an education that emancipates, connects and transforms. In every school, every neighbourhood and every territory, learning must be a lever for equality and creativity. The Social and Solidarity Economy teaches us that knowledge is meant to be shared, that cooperation can be learned, and that culture can be a driver of transformation. We want spaces where young people can experiment, create, debate and take action. Learning is not limited to accumulating knowledge: it means building a critical mindset, developing civic skills and imagining together the solutions of tomorrow.

Our recommendations:

- Integrate the **values and practices of SSE** into educational programmes, from primary school to higher education.
- Support **non-formal education and popular education initiatives** that promote youth participation and creativity.
- Develop **youth incubators** and social innovation spaces open to all profiles.
- Strengthen **cooperation between schools, local authorities and SSE organisations** to connect education with local realities.
- Value **culture, art and heritage** as tools for transmission, intercultural dialogue and civic engagement.

To educate is to give everyone the power to understand and to act, in order to build a society of free and conscious citizens.

4. Protecting life : ecology, territories, climate and biodiversity



We are part of the living world, and its protection is inseparable from our future. Everywhere, ecological crises, biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate injustices threaten our communities. Faced with these emergencies, we affirm that responses must be social as well as environmental: protecting nature also means protecting people. The Social and Solidarity Economy opens the way towards models based on sobriety, cooperation and respect for life. Preserving our territories means recognising the value of local knowledge, community initiatives and the solidarities that connect people to their environment.

Our recommendations:

- Support **sustainable and solidarity-based agricultural models**, in particular agroecology, food sovereignty and short supply chains.
- Preserve **marine and river ecosystems** through sustainable fishing, resilient coastlines and the collective management of water as a common good.
- Involve **young people in climate policies** and environmental governance at all levels.
- Develop **funding and support programmes** for local ecological transition initiatives led by young people.
- Encourage **cooperation between territories** to share solutions to environmental crises.
- Promote a **circular and solidarity-based economy** founded on reuse, sobriety and the preservation of natural resources.

To protect life is to make the Earth our common good and to view territories as interdependent ecosystems, where sustainable models are built upon the knowledge, cultures and communities that inhabit them.

5. Participating fully, governing differently



We no longer want to be merely consulted but to be fully involved in the decisions that shape our future. Too often, young people are excluded from the spaces where public policies are decided, even though they are directly affected by their consequences. Deciding our future means claiming a legitimate place in the governance of territories, institutions and organisations. Democracy cannot be alive without real participation, transparency and collective responsibility. The Social and Solidarity Economy teaches us that everyone can be an actor of change and that shared governance is the key to fairer and more inclusive societies.

Our recommendations:

- Create **permanent institutional mechanisms for youth participation** in public bodies and SSE organisations.
- Guarantee **transparency and access to information** as essential conditions for active citizenship.
- Support **shared governance initiatives**, both local and international, that involve young people in the design and evaluation of policies.
- Integrate **education for citizenship, democracy and cooperation** into school curricula and civic training.
- Recognise and value **youth organisations and networks** as full political actors within decision-making spaces.

Moving from consultation to co-decision means empowering everyone to take part in governance transformation and to make democracy truly alive.



6. Building peace and solidarity among peoples

Peace cannot be decreed, it is built every day through solidarity, culture and cooperation. In a world marked by crises, forced migrations and cultural tensions, we affirm that peace begins when everyone can live, engage and flourish within their community. The lack of opportunities, insecurity and inequality fuel division and human tragedy. The Social and Solidarity Economy, by promoting local employment, inclusion and cooperation, creates the conditions for lasting stability and dialogue among peoples. It offers tools to transform territories into spaces of encounter, justice and shared hope.

Our recommendations:

- Develop **local opportunities for employment, training and civic engagement** in order to prevent forced migration and strengthen community ties.
- Support **cooperation and solidarity mobility initiatives** led by young people, promoting mutual understanding and fair exchanges.
- Promote **youth as actors of citizen diplomacy** and intercultural mediation.
- Develop **cooperation programmes** between young people and SSE actors from different territories to promote solidarity, dialogue and joint solutions that foster peace.
- Value **culture, art and intercultural dialogue** as levers for peace, coexistence and social cohesion.

Building peace means enabling everyone to live and act with dignity within their community, so that solidarity and cooperation become the common language among peoples.

Final Call

This Declaration is a milestone: it carries the voice of a generation united by shared values and ready to lead the necessary changes.

Across the world, young people are already shaping concrete solutions that bridge local action with global impact, ensuring that the economy serves life, justice, and the common good.

We call upon governments, institutions, local authorities, and SSE actors to fully recognize youth as a force for transformation, capable of prioritizing cooperation and solidarity to address the major social, economic, and environmental challenges of our time.

If the Social and Solidarity Economy is the means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, then youth is its driving force.

Together, let us turn our commitments into bridges between territories, where shared values meet the richness of local diversity to build a common future.

Mobility must be a right, not a privilege. For peace and cooperation to take their full meaning, every young person must be able to move freely, be received with respect, and take part in the exchanges that weave bonds between peoples.

We call for mobility policies that are more accessible, transparent, and equitable; guaranteeing freedom of movement without discrimination, based on trust, mutual respect, and the recognition of cultural diversity.

Promoting solidarity-based mobility means enabling every global citizen to share, learn, and build together a future grounded in reciprocity and dignity.



The International Youth Declaration was reinterpreted and brought to the stage by 32 young people from 18 nationalities, surrounded by their peers, during the closing ceremony of the BordeauxGSEF2025 Forum at the Palais 2 l'Atlantique on 31 October 2025.

- Karim SABOUROU *Benin*
- Arlette Gertrude VAUTHIER *Central African Republic*
- Ombeline DAMESTOY *France*
- Mateusz SKUBLEWSKI *Poland*
- Kostadin PETELOV *Bulgaria*
- Anna SUDER *Poland*
- Mégane BOURDON *Quebec, Canada*
- Dylan DARTEIL *France*
- Grigore RÎNJA *Moldova*
- Florian-Lhilyan GEFROY *France*
- Laurie BOURGEOIS *Quebec, Canada*
- Natholie Herty Bevroren NGOUANGA *Republic of the Congo*
- Yann BEAUDEMOULIN *Réunion, France*
- Jakob CLEYMANS *Belgium*
- Alicja WÓJCIK *Poland*
- Adrien CHAREAU *France*
- Dimitris TSOTSIS *Bulgaria*
- El Hacen DIALLO *Mauritania*
- Lynn HAVILAND *France*
- Mercedes GARCÍA HERRERO *Spain*
- Mariana Sarria BOHÓRQUEZ *Colombia*
- Alba DE LA CAL *Spain*
- Cahéla KOULÉON *France*
- Riccardo D'ANTONA *Italy*
- Franck Ericman ANDRIAMAHOLISON *Madagascar*
- Eléonore BORDIONE *France*
- Fatoumata SOUARÉ *Guinea*
- Kinapina COULIBALY *Côte d'Ivoire*
- Erialie Soraya LOCKY NIANGOMBE *Republic of the Congo*
- Malalanirina Lucile RAMAMONJISOA *Madagascar*
- Lucie DUCHESNE *Belgium*
- Lilou IGLESIA AUDUMARÈS *France*

References

The advocacy messages that make up the International Youth Declaration for the SSE draw on a diverse range of institutional, scientific and citizen-based sources.

They are the result of a collective process carried out within the GSEF SSE Youth Hub, bringing together youth organisations, SSE networks and GSEF members engaged in youth-related issues.

The Declaration was introduced on stage by representatives of the organisations co-leading the GSEF SSE Youth Hub:

- the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region for Europe;
- the National Institute of Social Economy of Mexico for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- NEXT-G for Asia;
- the Youth Wing of the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale for North America;
- ABEWE for Africa.



From left to right: Aude Saldana, Aurore Prévot, Berenice Alcalde, Laurie Bourgeois, Sohee Eom, Ndoumbé Pouye, Fabrice Balou / Photo: Thomas Sanson

The content draws on:

- **international reports and policy frameworks** relating to the SSE, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and youth;
- **direct contributions and testimonies** gathered from young people around the world through advocacy campaigns and consultations conducted between 2024 and 2025;
- **experiences and initiatives** shared by GSEF members and continental partner networks, particularly youth organisations that work with and for young people and therefore have an in-depth understanding of their needs and aspirations;
- and finally, the **five continental advocacy papers** (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America) developed collectively within the GSEF SSE Youth Hub on each continent.

This Declaration also builds on **the four international youth declarations for the SSE** developed at previous GSEF events and Global Forums :

- Declaration of the 1st Global Youth Camp for the SSE, Seoul, 2017;
- Bilbao GSEF 2018 Declaration;
- Mexico GSEF 2020/21 Declaration;
- Dakar GSEF 2023 Youth SSE Call.



BordeauxGSEF2025 Closing Ceremony / Photo : Thomas Sanson for the City of Bordeaux





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