





# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**The political task of the SSE International Forum and its members is to reverse priorities: economy serving social goals, rather than the subordination of the social field to profitability. The social and solidarity economy provides proven, but also innovative solutions to the many challenges of the 21st century, created or aggravated by the current growth model. Hence, the SSE International Forum's project defends that the SSE should not only constitute an instrument for measuring the economy, but also be a reference in its transformation.**



Extract from the Manifesto of the SSE International Forum, 2019

**SSE International Forum**

34 bis, Rue Vignon – 75 009 Paris – France

Tél. : +33 613 629 789

contact@essfi.coop // [www.essforuminternational.com](http://www.essforuminternational.com)

## 2019 a pivotal year for SSE International Forum

A whole year has just gone by. A year of transition, with the relay given by Thierry Jeantet, and **the precious history of our network which is constantly being written.** It continues to be written all the more as we have begun new chapters on each continent: the law in Uruguay, in December 2019, which awards several years of work; in Cameroon, too; and in Europe, with the renewal of institutions. **And the unprecedented health crisis, which is heavy with all the crises to come: social, economic, financial, etc., is also a major factor. If the path chosen is that of profound transformations, it would make it possible to avoid, thwart and cushion possible shocks, and reveal new promises. Whatever the scenario of our future, the SSE has a big role to play. We will have to repair, but also anticipate, reverse, invent, defend and provide access to rights.**

**Our ambitions to make the Social and Solidarity Economy shine ever more brightly, to make it grow everywhere, must be put into perspective in the light of these upheavals:** to respond as closely as possible to the needs of citizens, in all areas of daily life. The SSE, with its specific characteristics, social goals, collective ownership, democratic functioning, etc., must definitely be one of the tools and resources for dealing with problems at various levels: local, regional, national, ministerial, etc. It enables the deployment of effective alternative solutions that respond to current and immediate future challenges. **To this end, we will fervently defend the idea of a common basis, and thus official and political recognition in all institutional arenas, and at the highest international levels.**

Historically, the Mont Blanc Meetings have in some respects been training grounds for participants, and sometimes the facilitator of exchanges between institutions (UN Women, UNEP, UNCTAD, AFD). We would like to further strengthen this dimension.

Today we also have a digital platform, **the Agora, a virtual incubator, a platform for the promotion and support of social and solidarity economy projects.** Togo supports the project and its government supports the approach.

The institutions and companies of our network have a **huge amount of expertise** that can be put to good use. SSE International Forum will get in touch with its **numerous contacts** to participate in the various missions that will be set up so that the recognition is equal to the stakes of this 21st century, where the challenges will be major.

A year of presidency shared between us: **a woman, a man, Colombia and Belgium, different outlooks that enrich** our network's orientations with their experiences and determinations. **A huge thank you, therefore, to our members, those who bring our ideas to life and give substance to them through their commitment, that of their teams,** the projects they defend, their **desire to change what must be changed, to defend this model in which we believe more than ever.**

We are counting on you, you can count on us.



**Elisa Torrenegra & Alain Coheur,**  
Co-presidents of SSE International Forum

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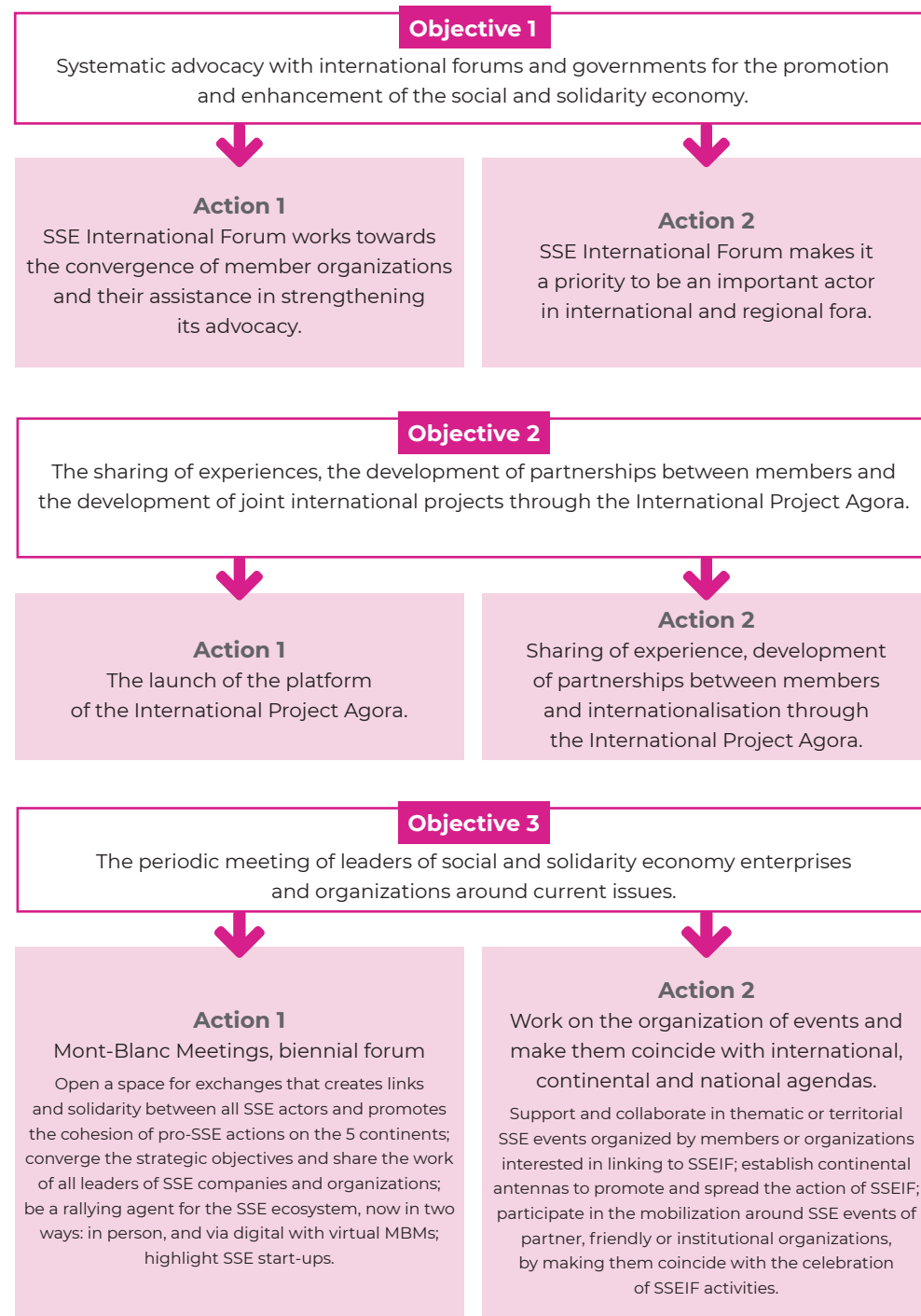
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## SSE International Forum three-year action plan



## Changes within the International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy



### Presidency

**Thierry Jeantet**, founder and president of the organization since 2004, handed over the reins at the Board of Directors meeting on February 25, 2019. Now honorary president, he is replaced by an intercontinental duo at the head of SSE International Forum: Alain Coheur (Solidaris - Belgium) and Elisa Torrenegra (Gestar Salud - Colombia). They were unanimously elected by the Board of Directors.



### Our co-presidents

**Elisa Torrenegra** trained as a surgeon at the Free University of Colombia. She also obtained a specialization in health services management at Universidad del Norte, a specialization in international social security at the Universidad Externado de Colombia, and training in public policy design and evaluation at the University of Los Andes, Colombia.

In 1995, she coordinated the Decentralization and Social Security Implementation Support Group and then served as Technical Director of the Atlantic Health Administrative Department until 1997. In 1998, she became a consultant to the General Directorate for Promotion and Prevention of the Ministry of Health. From 1998 to 2001, she headed the Quality Insurance Branch of the National Superintendency of Health.

Since 2002, she has been Managing Director of Gestarsalud (Association of Health Insurance Management Companies). Her missions include representing the public before the decision-making bodies of the health system and other interest groups on issues relating to the operation of the subsidized health system that needs revision, adjustment or some form of improvement. She also provides technical direction for the association's Strategic Plan and coordinates projects aimed at increasing the visibility, better functioning and financial stability of Gestarsalud's member health care providers.



**Alain Coheur** Alain Coheur studied at the University of Liège, at the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Public Health (specialising in hospital management) and the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences. He began his career at the Hospital of Liège University. In 1991 he joined the Belgian National Union of Socialist Mutual Health Insurance (research department). He took part in the

management of the Belgian health system by being a member of the Insurance Committee of the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance and of the National Council for Hospitals of the Ministry of Public Health. Since 1997, he has been coordinating various cross-border health care projects between Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg financed by European.

Between 1998 and 2002, he was Project Director at the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM), then member of the Board of Directors and was elected Treasurer in June 2017. In 2002, he returned to the Belgian National Union of Socialist Mutual Societies (Solidaris), as Director of European and International Affairs. Since 2004, he has been a member of the bureau of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and Vice-Chairman of the Technical Commission on Mutual Benefit Societies. Between 2007 and 2016, he was President of the NGO Solsoc. In 2008, he is elected President of Social Economy Europe until 2015. He is currently Vice-President of Social Economy Europe.

Since 2009, he is the vice-president of the Education and Solidarity Network. In 2013, he became member of the Board of Directors for the Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL).

Between 2014 and 2018, he was a member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES).

In 2014, he became a member of the Wallonia Brussels International (CWBCI) and the President in 2017.

Since 2015, he has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), spokesperson for the social economy category and chairman of the permanent study group on social economy enterprises. Since 2018, he is a member of the Board of Directors of CIRIEC (Belgian and international section).



### Team

#### General delegate

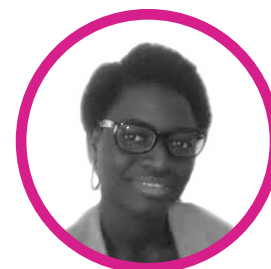
Born in 1984 in Montreuil, **Anne-Lise Barberon** is a graduate of Sciences-po Bordeaux (Master's Degree in International Politics) and a former student of the Sorbonne, in history (Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Contemporary History).

In 2012, she became advisor in charge of sustainable development issues, and parliamentary advisor to Benoît Hamon, Minister Delegate for Social and Solidarity Economy and Consumer Affairs, where she ensures, no-

tably within the framework of the SSE law, the Minister's link with the National Representation, the European Parliament, the network with civil society actors in the field of sustainable development, in particular at Rio+20. In 2014, she joined the office of the President of the National Assembly, Claude Bartolone, where she is advisor in charge of parliamentary affairs.

In 2017, she joins Groupe VYV, a leading actor in the social and solidarity economy in the mutualist world. She worked on advocacy strategy, negotiation and research of positions with national and European public actors.

Since October 4, 2019, Anne-Lise Barberon is the General Delegate of the International Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy.



#### Task officer

**Mame Fatou Séne** was born in Senegal in 1988. After graduating highschool, she joined the Maison d'Education de la Légion d'Honneur in Paris, where she attended the Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles (CPGE). She obtained her Master's degree in Politics and Development in Africa and the South at Sciences Po Bordeaux, then continued her doctoral studies there where her research

interests include the dynamics of public policy, religion, gender and education, with a focus on young girls in Arab-Islamic schools in Senegal.

In November 2019, she joins the SSE International Forum team, where she takes up the position of Task officer.

#### Head office

In October 2019, SSE International Forum left its office at 54 avenue de Clichy, 75018 Paris. The team moved to the premises of the Chambre Française de l'ESS, 34 bis rue Vignon, 75009 Paris. A move that will strengthen the collaboration of the two organizations for the benefit of SSE.



#### Scientific coordination

SSE International Forum dissolves its scientific committee and signs a collaboration agreement with the International Centre for Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC).

In order to continue to carry out effective actions for the promotion of SSE at the international level, SSE International Forum will be able to count on the scientific support and the results of the research carried out by CIRIEC in

collaboration with our members. Work that will be valorized in each forum where SSE International Forum is present.

This collaboration is the result of a strong commitment between SSE actors, and a further step towards a better visibility of the social and solidarity economy.



# A call to the leaders of social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations

## We are actors in the transformation of the world!

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) enterprises are born from the will of women and men to collectively manage a common project driven by democracy, solidarity, limited profitability and performance. To this end, enterprises and partnerships breaking with the logic of the primacy of capital and financial results are formed. Within their bodies, new working relationships are developed, leading to emancipation, both individual and collective, and establishing new social relationships. The SSE International Forum, as an international network in the social and solidarity economy field, and as a representative of its member enterprises, defends SSE's inherent principles, disseminates practices, gathers expertise and brings together firms and the executives of organizations.

## The core place of participatory democracy, recognized and promoted.

Democracy is a crucial principle of SSE: a democratic functioning which involves the participation of all stakeholders – workers, users and beneficiaries – in the management of the company. It also covers a democratic influence that enables citizens to exercise their rights: to participate in collective action and to contribute to social debates. The SSE International Forum contributes to those achievements through the circulation of those practices, its imprint on the market economy and its advocacy for limited profitability. In this sense, its role is eminently political. In the current context, where the social contract cementing our societies is shaken, the political task of the SSE International Forum and its members, is to reverse priorities: the economy serving social goals, rather than the subordination of the social field to profitability.

## Primacy of the person and the corporate, over capital

This primacy, for which the SSE International Forum is promoting, is based on several guarantees:

- ✓ Voluntary and open membership;
- ✓ Control and democratic governance by members;
- ✓ The inviolability of collective or social property;
- ✓ The combination and complementarity of the interests of members, users and the general interest;
- ✓ Support and implementation of the principles of solidarity and responsibility;

- ✓ Management autonomy and independence vis-à-vis public authorities;
- ✓ Limited profitability: the use of the majority of management surpluses for investment, sustainability and project development and not for shareholder remuneration.

## SEE is a proven resilient model, in all daily life domains

Social and solidarity economy provides proven, but also innovative solutions to the many challenges of the 21st century, created or aggravated by the current growth model. The SSE is an instrument for local-based economy. Its fields of intervention cover all areas of daily life: social protection, education, culture, banking services, agriculture, environment, etc. Its model is resilient because it rejects the excesses of the financial system, and channels profits towards the needs of the company and its members. Its principles improve the company's internal democracy and bring citizens and political decision-makers closer. Together, its operation and principles shape a responsible growth, on both social and ecological levels. It contributes to the plurality and stability of the economic fabric.

## The SSE International Forum, go-between actors who are transforming the world

The SSE International Forum, as a representative of its members' initiatives, is a liaison, a go-between for the organization of civil society and a partner for the authorities.

We broaden the agenda of the social and solidarity economy on an international scale in order to foster an alternative to globalization, that requires the sustainable development of our societies. Funding for this transition is crucial. In harmony with the United Nations' "SDGs" strategy, we believe that economic practices in solidarity, inclusiveness and citizenship are key to a fairer world order: refocusing on people and ecosystems.

**Women and men of the Social and Solidarity Economy, we are working  
for the emergence of this path, the raising of these different economic voices,  
promoting a more transparent, more sustainable, all in all, a more responsible model.  
We stand up for another economic model. We advocate for the largest possible  
spreading of the principles, assets and components of the Social and Solidarity Economy.  
This is a model that does not thrive on financial speculation, on the exploitation  
of human beings and on the irreversible use of natural resources.  
In an era of major economic, ecological and social changes, the social  
and solidarity economy is in a position to establish itself, develop and transform  
the dominant economy.**

## Our challenges and contributions to the world as actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy

The world is one, even the sky is no longer the limit for human beings in their desire to spread out into the vast emptiness of the universe. Within the world, regardless of our colour and origins, we are all one and the same community, with different habits, customs and cultures; but with the same goal: to survive.

Surviving in a world used and abused by humans of all colour, race or country. A world where nature has given us everything for the growth of a race dedicated to creating and accumulating wealth; wealth such as human talent that is increasingly developed and innovative, but used over and over again, sometimes against itself.

We have structural, physical and technological wealth to facilitate processes and developments that sometimes go against our own well-being and life itself. And we have monetary wealth that pushes human beings into a frenzied race for power. As human beings, we all recognize the richness of the spaces and environments where structures and technology are strengthened. But... what about nature, which gives us everything?

Who then thinks about sustainability and sustenance as a human race? Is it nature that must continue to protect us? Is it still strong enough?

Are structures and technology supposed to protect and heal us? Are they programmed to do so? Do they adapt their impact to humans or do they exceed their capabilities?

No! It is the human being who is called to feel, think, ponder and act differently. It is the human being who is called to give a hand to another to get out of their difficulties, it is the human being who must foresee another path, it is the human being who has the intelligence to conceive forms of mutual and collaborative support in the face of different risks. It is the human being who must control the possibilities of extracting, using and abusing all these resources.

We have the intelligence to create innovative and complementary forms of protection for all. We can do this for our children and the younger generations, including generations Y and Z, about whom much is still unknown. We need to learn more about their ways of speaking, working, thinking, living and identifying ways to ensure their present and future protection. For older people, we must create a mechanism of solidarity to ensure better years to come.



As humans, we can be more aware of and learn from the gaps and differences between the different forms of survival on each continent. We can identify with human solidarity so that we can think and act for and with others; we can go outside our walls, our practices and our statutes, and look outside, towards the different, the invisible.

It is our duty to lead the way in identifying solutions, influencing governments and interest groups, advocating for a greater appreciation and promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy as the main tool for reducing the gaps. The Social and Solidarity Economy must go beyond intentions and shine the light on organizations that propose gender equality, healthy environments, clean energy and formal employment. The social and solidarity economy can enable us to generate trust, reflect capacity and highlight the added value that makes us unique!

We must give priority to the production of knowledge, make management transparent and show our commitment based on our practices in each of our organizations. It is in our interest to demonstrate credibility, inspire trust and capacity for reflection if we want to have a greater impact, give up what we have to give up, change what we have to change and make SSE an instrument for better living.



## Some highlights for the Social and Solidarity Economy in 2019

### Towards a European action plan for the development of the SSE

“You will develop a European Action Plan for Social Economy to enhance social innovation”<sup>1</sup>. In her mission letter addressed to Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for jobs and social rights, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the College of the new European Commission, announced the commitment of the European executive to the implementation of an action plan for the Social Economy. Nicolas Schmit had not failed to point out, during his hearing before the European Parliament, that a sustainable Europe is a Europe that ensures its policies highlight their social and inclusive dimensions. He will add, during the presentation of the European Commission’s initial reflections, on the construction of a strong social Europe for just transitions<sup>2</sup>:

“ **Millions of Europeans will see their work lives change over the next few years. We need to ensure that tomorrow’s workforce can thrive. Europe’s innovative and inclusive social market economy must be people-centered: it must offer people quality jobs with adequate pay. No Member State, no region and no person should be left behind. We must relentlessly promote the highest standards in labour markets, so that all Europeans can lead a dignified and ambitious life.** ”

*Nicolas Schmit*

The roadmap for building a strong social Europe for just transitions revolves around key actions:

- fair minimum wages for EU workers;
- a European strategy for equality between men and women and binding measures on pay transparency;
- an updated skills strategy for Europe;
- an updated guarantee for youth;
- a summit on work via a platform;
- a green paper on ageing;
- a strategy for people with disabilities;
- a report on demographics;
- a European unemployment reinsurance scheme.



### The European social economy intergroup is renewed

The European Parliament renewed its support for the Interparliamentary Group on the Social Economy, a platform for exchange between members of the European Parliament and members of civil society. The new group was set up and held its first meeting on January 21, 2020. MEPs Patrizia Toia (S&D, Italy), Sven Giegold (Greens/EFA, Germany), Leopoldo López (EPP, Spain), Monica Semedo (Renew, Luxembourg) and Manon Aubry (GUE/NGL, France) were appointed co-chairs. Leszek Miller (S&D, Poland) and Jordi Cañas (Renew, Spain) will serve as vice-presidents.



### Uruguay obtains its law on SSE

On December 10, 2019, the House of Representatives approved the Law on Social and Solidarity Economy. This is the culmination of a process that lasted more than ten years. Since the adoption of the General Cooperative Law in 2008, the SSE has remained in the political arena until the text of the law was adopted by parliamentarians.

1. Mission letter addressed to Nicolas Schmit, 1 December 2019

2. The European Commission presents a communication on building a strong social Europe for just transitions

# Bringing the voice of SSE in international fora

## SSE INTERNATIONAL FORUM MEETS WITH UN AGENCIES

**SSE International Forum continues its mission for the adoption of a resolution in favour of the social and solidarity economy.** As part of this long-term work, a delegation composed of Thierry Jeantet (honorary president), Elisa Torrenegra (co-president) and Jean Fabre (member of the scientific committee), went to New York in April 2019 to meet with UN agencies.



During this meeting, Ms. Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor on Sustainable Development at UN Women, welcomed and encouraged the actions of SSE International Forum in promoting initiatives carried by cooperatives, mutual societies, associations, social enterprises and foundations. The highlighting of women's achievements was also discussed, and the importance of giving them the opportunity to share their experiences.



The SSE International Forum delegation was able to exchange with Xavier Michon, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCDF. At the heart of the discussions was the sensitization of cities and SSE organizations to the need to develop partnerships in order to contribute to the development of the 47 countries where UNCDF is present.



**Proposal to strengthen what SSE stakeholders can do to adopt and implement standards and processes** related to environmental objectives, equity, transparency and local production channels - with a participatory approach that is in the DNA of SSE.

- Amina Mohammed recommends contacting, DESA, ECLAC, UN-Habitat, UN-Environment and UNDP, respectively.
- SSEIF proposes to examine, through appropriate initiatives, how SSE actors can better respond to the many challenges related to migration, increase their capacity to establish new partnerships with local authorities, contribute to the development of rural territories, and help reduce socio-economic tensions between rural and urban areas. They highlight the need to exploit the potential of SSE as a factor of integration - and thus of hope - for young people, as well as to create intergenerational links.



**The are different options that should be examined** to develop the social and solidarity economy

- UNCTAD and SSEIF discussed the “future of work”, which is of direct relevance to SSE, with the understanding that one of its major concerns is to ensure that its values are integrated into any future development of work.

## UN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (UNTFSE)



**In 2013, the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE) is established to increase the visibility of SSE and its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This taskforce brings together 19 UN agencies and the OECD as members, and 10 civil society organizations, including SSE International Forum, as observers. The chair of the taskforce is currently held by the ILO.**



**25th & 26th of June 2019**

The UNTFSE brought together in Geneva, during two days, more than 150 participants from 60 countries to exchange on the role of SSE in the implementation of the SDGs and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

SSE International Forum co-organized with CIRIEC and the International Cooperative Alliance, a special session on the impact that SSE collaboration experiences around the world can have in the implementation of SDGs. The session, moderated by Alain Arnaud, representing CIRIEC International, allowed the presentation of initiatives from India, Brazil and Spain. These examples, as well as the interventions of Alain Coheur, co-president of SSE International Forum and Ariel Guarco, president of ICA, underlined the importance of co-construction for a better efficiency of SSE.

Eva Cantèle, then General Delegate of SSE International Forum, also moderated the parallel session on “Women’s Motivations for



Entrepreneurship in Cooperatives”. This session presented the role of SSE in empowering women and reducing gender inequalities. It was another opportunity to underline the inescapable character of SSE for the achievement of SDGs.

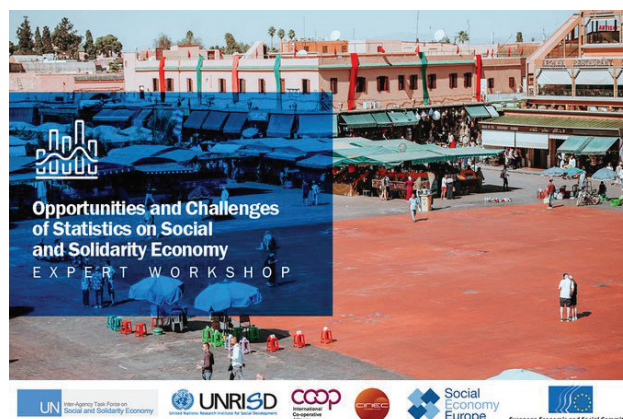


## November 4th 2019

At the beginning of SSE month, Brussels hosted a meeting of high importance for the social and solidarity economy. SSE International Forum participated in a seminar co-organized by the United Nations Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and Social Economy Europe. This seminar brought together statistical and research institutes (CIRIEC, EUROSTAT), cooperatives (ICA), governments and organizations working on SSE and deployed the fields offered by satellite accounts and statistics to the social and solidarity economy.

In order to enhance the value of the achievements and deploy the potential of SSE, the definition of perimeters and measures are essential. The day was an opportunity to show the fundamental role played by quantitative measurement, for a factual recognition of the contribution of SSE in the economy and its transformation. The relevance of statistics for diversifying and deepening public policies for SSE was also demonstrated.

Alain Coheur, Co-President of SSE International Forum and Vice-President of Social Economy Europe, introduced the day's proceedings. He stressed the need for the establishment of a legal framework for SSE



enterprises and organisations in order to strengthen their recognition and role in society. As a follow-up to this meeting on November 4, he signed on behalf of ESSFI and alongside many organizations the Montreal Declaration on Social Impact Assessment: "Social impact assessment presents identity issues for the future of the social economy. It must take these steps to do more and better while reaffirming its project of economic democratization. The Montreal Declaration states this loud and clear, and that is why ESS Forum International is pleased to endorse it.

This event on statistics, as a follow-up to the June conference in Geneva, recalls the key role played by mutualisation, the sharing of good practices and methodological rigour in the influence of SSE.

## 21st and 22nd of November 2019

The UNTFSSSE closed the SSE month with a two-day retreat on November 21 and 22, 2019 in Trento to further develop its work programme. After having participated in the conference on "SSE momentum" held in the same city from November 18 to 20, these two days of exchange aimed at consolidating the organization with a roadmap that expresses the ambition of the Taskforce to support SSE projects around the world. Ambition shared by the UN agencies as well as the observer members of the Taskforce, who all reaffirmed their commitment. This bodes well for the years to come.



## EXPERT GROUP ON SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (GECES)

The European Commission's Expert group on social economy and social enterprises (GECES) was renewed in 2018 for a period of 6 years. It is consulted by the European Commission on the opportunities, implementation and development of all actions mentioned in the Social Entrepreneurship Initiative, or the future of social entrepreneurship. SSE International Forum is an observer member.



## October 12th 2019

The second annual meeting of the GECES in Brussels was an opportunity to meet European social economy actors, exchange with the representatives of the Member States, take part in the work and structuring exchanges on the importance of the SSE, its role and its place for a fair and united Europe.

The annual balance sheet presented shows the progress made in each of the GECES' areas of work. Access to funding and markets, the international dimension of the issues at stake and the implementation of an adequate legal framework for social enterprises, not forgetting social, technological and economic innovations: the working groups keep producing.

All the presentations and work shared during this meeting demonstrate the importance of cooperation between States, and between actors. Ensuring the circulation of good practices in a co-construction perspective, sharing and planning effective communication in order to increase the influence of SSE, bringing the unanimous feeling that a mobilisation of all is necessary: these are GECES' recommendations in order to have SSE recognised as an indispensable component and a major asset for the economic and social development of Europe.

# Contributing to the structuring and influence of SSE

## PACT FOR IMPACT



**Pact for Impact is a new global alliance of actors committed to the development of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and to the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The initiative was born out of collaboration between the French Ministries of Ecological and Solidarity Transition on the one hand, and Europe and Foreign Affairs on the other.**

### 10th & 11th of July 2019

400 participants from 50 countries with more than 25 official representatives met in Paris to work on building a Global Alliance for Social Economy and Social Innovation. The international summit allowed the diversity of actors present to exchange on the themes of the plenary sessions and the ten working sessions on the agenda. In collaboration with the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC), SSE International Forum organized a workshop on the key issue of the institutional framework of SSE. On this occasion, David Hiez, professor of private law at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance of the University of Luxembourg and scientific adviser to SSE International Forum presented the contents of the Accompanying guide for the drafting of a social and solidarity economy law. The elaboration of this guide will make it possible to list and take stock of legislation and reference actors, identify good practices ensuring frameworks conducive to the development of SSE, and propose tools for the construction of legislation for SSE.

The plenary session "Impact" saw the intervention of Elisa Torrenegra, co-president of SSE International Forum, who presented health management and poverty reduction as instruments of peace based on the example of Colombia. During her presentation she did not fail to recall that the countries of the South are asking "that SSE be included in governance programmes".



In September, during the United Nations General Assembly, SSE International Forum met with the organizations of the Pact for Impact Alliance. Elisa Torrenegra took the opportunity of these exchanges to recall the potential of the SSE International Forum network. The latter has greatly contributed to the creation of the International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy (GPISSE), for which it has acted as co-secretary until 2019. The promotion of the social and solidarity economy remains one of the main missions of the SSE International Forum.

To this end, and with a view to increasingly relevant advocacy, SSE International Forum also maintains relations with the High Commissioner for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation (HCSSEIS). Several meetings took place in 2019 between the two organizations. In April, September and December, SSE International Forum and HCSSEIS met to establish a collaboration that meets the global challenges of SSE.





## THE SSE MOMENTUM: FINANCING FOR INCLUSION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

 from 18th to 20th of November 2019



November, SSE month was remarkably packed with activities and events. Trento hosted the international conference on social and solidarity economy, co-organized by EURICSE and the International Labour Organization. The latter, which was celebrating its centenary in 2019, has placed at the heart of its initiatives the question of the future of work in the light of SSE. More than a hundred participants met in Italy to discuss these issues. Participants attended the presentation of the results of two major studies commissioned by the ILO on the “Contribution of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Finance to the Future of Work”, led by the research institute HIVA and sponsored by the French government, and on “Financial Mechanisms for Innovative Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems”, led by EURICSE and sponsored by the Luxembourg government.

SSE International Forum took part in various panels relevant to our mission, including one on International Networks and Partnerships. This session allowed the formulation of recommendations, among which: the establishment and strengthening of networks between SSE actors and public actors, the investment and mobilization of financial resources to ensure the proper functioning of these networks, the partnership between old and new SSE organizations to ensure a circulation of knowledge and experiences, and the expansion of the role of SSE in the major ongoing ecological, social, democratic transitions.

These proposals have a common objective: to strengthen the SSE and its organizations in order to establish themselves as key players in the implementation of international agendas, in particular The 2030 Agenda, and its SDG strategy.

## The actions of our members

**Groupe VYV is committed to a united Europe, a better living Europe, in partnership with other members of SSE International Forum, including Solidaris and Crédit Coopératif**



Groupe Vyv is actively committed to achieving the objectives of the European Social Rights Framework proposed by the European Commission and signed on November 17, 2018. On February 27, 2019, in partnership with the Belgian mutualist group Solidaris, Groupe Vyv thus handed over to MEPs a memorandum entitled: Together let the social heart of the European Union beat, setting out some of their recommendations for the concrete implementation of Social Europe. This commitment to a fairer Europe was also demonstrated by the organization, in partnership with Uniopss and Crédit Coopératif, of a symposium on the theme “Solidarity associations make social Europe” on March 14. This event will then be followed by two round tables on April 3 at the Maison de l'Europe in Paris to present Groupe Vyv's perception of the social Europe of tomorrow, the foundations of which are the need for collaboration between SSE players who must draw inspiration from the actions and responses already implemented.

**APES organizes the 2<sup>nd</sup> international conference on social enterprises and the social responsibility of enterprises in Togo.**

The General Secretariat of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Social Enterprises and Corporate Social Responsibility in Togo was led by APES. The conference, organized in Lomé on June 6 and 7, 2019, welcomed representatives of social enterprises and enterprises of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), representatives of international organizations and civil society, members of the Togolese government, representatives of the US embassy in Togo, the Ecobank Group, Alaffia and SSE International Forum. The exchanges led to the adoption of a joint declaration in favour of SSE in Togo.



As a member of the National Coalition for Youth Employment (CNEJ) since September 2018, APES has also contributed to the establishment of the Social Entrepreneurship Resource Centre in Togo (CeRES). The CeRES was created on March 25, 2019 on the initiative of the Togolese Government and the US embassy in Togo. This initiative comes in a

context marked by a will to make Togo the Hub of social enterprises and Social and Solidarity Economy in West Africa, within the framework of the implementation of its National Development Plan (NDP) and through the establishment of tools adapted to economic, social and environmental development, in respect with the different sub-regional and international agendas.



The year 2019 of Apes Togo is also, the active participation in the International Summit of Cooperatives in Kigali, Rwanda in October, the implementation of the activities of the project “Dolcetto”, a project to promote and support cooperatives of organic pineapple producers in the prefecture of Tsévié, 35 km away from Lomé, and the activities of the Program “Laboratory of cooperative entrepreneurship and development cooperation”.

### AG2R La mondiale celebrates the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the branches of the solidarity and social economy

On December 4, 2019, AG2R la Mondiale held in its premises the 1st Meeting of the branches of the Solidarity and Social Economy (SSE) which brought together many actors of the sector, for a morning of presentations and debates around the function and commitments of SSE organizations. The specialist in social and patrimonial protection, announced during this event, the

launch of a dedicated pole for the Social and Solidarity Economy within AG2R LA MONDIALE, whose mission will be to represent and defend the interests of the SSE sector.



### Fondation rewarded for its work in the development of the green economy

SSE is a commitment to a fair and sustainable economy. Fondation, a founding member of SSE International Forum, has taken the full measure of the urgency of climate change and in 2016, in partnership with Coop Carbone, created the Fonds In-



landsis, the first Quebec fund to finance greenhouse gas reduction projects through carbon contracts. At the 10th edition of the Gala Envirolys, organized by the Conseil des entreprises en technologies environnementales du Québec (CETEQ) on November 18, Fondation's work was recognized with the EnviroLys award, in the category Support for the development of the green economy.

### The Credit Coopératif Foundation awards the national prize for inspiration in SSE



Since 1983, Crédit coopératif has organized a competition aimed at rewarding some sixty general interest projects each year that meet local needs and address a variety of issues: culture, employment, education, ecology, health, citizenship, inclusion, promotion of SSE.

The winners of the National SSE Inspiration Prize for 2019 have projects ranging from the implementation of a collective heating system in rural areas, to the support of local SSE projects, sustainable and ethical electronics, or the social reintegration of prisoners, all areas where SSE is proving its relevance.

### Gestarsalud annual congress

On October 17 and 18, 2019, in Cartagena - Colombia, Gestarsalud held its annual congress with the central theme “The Resilience of the Colombian Health System”. Elisa Torrenegra, Director of Gestarsalud, presented the event as an opportunity to analyze the current and future situation of the health sector in the most relevant areas that concern us all, such as the continuity of insurance, the investments needed to provide services to all under equal conditions of quality, the human talent needed, distribution and approach, innovation and of course the financing needed for all this. The four congress panels addressed, among other things, the issues of quality, innovation and the determinants of health.

The year 2019 for Gestarsalud was also the year of participation as a senior member of Francesco's economy programme, which will be carried out with young people from more than 120 countries, participation in the first policy dialogue on the social and solidarity economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, during the 19th conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (OIDP) in Iztapalapa (Mexico), and participation in the side event of the Pact for impact during the United Nations General Assembly.





## Participation of the Reless (Local relays for the SSE) in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of national days of Social economy in Cameroun



The Local Relays for SSE, set up at the initiative of Pauline Effa, Director General of PFAC, member of SSE International Forum, took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Days of Social Economy, celebrated from 29 to 31 October 2019 at the Yaounde Convention Centre. This year's theme, "Social Economy at the heart of inclusive development in Cameroon" highlighted the role that SSE must play through fairs and exhibitions of products of Social Economy units, conferences-debates and information and awareness activities on the opportunities offered by existing support programmes and funding mechanisms.



## GSEF organizes the first policy dialogue on the Social and Solidarity in Latin America and the Caribbean

On 9 December, the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) co-organized with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) the first policy dialogue on the social and solidarity economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, during the 19th conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD) in Iztapalapa (Mexico). The main objectives of this event were to promote the creation of alliances through GSEF sessions and other networking events with UCLG member cities in order to allow a better understanding of the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in current development frameworks; the establishment of networks with new members and potential partners in the Latin American region and the promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy and its important contribution to the localization and achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs); the proposal of a space for debate and mutual learning for sustainable and inclusive local development through the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Elisa Torrenegra, co-president of the International Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy participated as a speaker in this unprecedented Dialogue.

## Our members

### EUROPE



### AMERICA



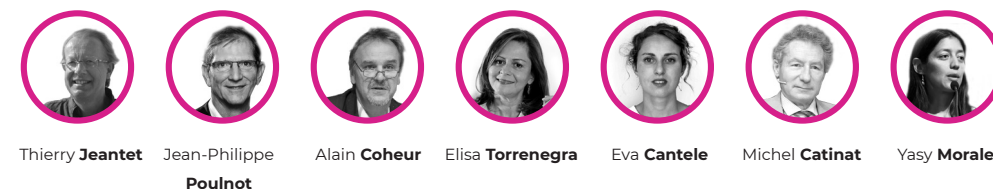
### AFRICA



### ASIA



### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS



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Honorary president



**Alain Coheur**  
Co-president



**Elisa Torrenegra**  
Co-presidente

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## JOIN US

### **SSE International Forum**

34 bis, Rue Vignon – 75 009 Paris – France

Tél. : +33 613 629 789

[contact@essfi.coop](mailto:contact@essfi.coop)

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