



BILBAO2018

GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

Social Economy and Cities

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

October 1-3, 2018

Euskalduna Conference Center
Bilbao, Spain



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www.gsef2018.org



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3 DAYS / WORKSHOPS / SITE VISITS AND PLENTY OF MEETING OPPORTUNITIES

OBJECTIVES OF THE GSEF2018

- ❖ Share best practices from around the planet of public policy co-constructed for the development of the SE in urban areas
- ❖ Integrate the key elements of competitiveness taking into account the core values of the social economy
- ❖ Enable international actions to foster the development of the SE
- ❖ Identify opportunities and issues pertaining to collaboration between local governments and SE actors
- ❖ Promote awareness of the SE and recognition of its role in local development, especially among public stakeholders, the general public, and the private sector
- ❖ Reinforce the GSEF and its capacity to carry out its mission

The Forum is meant to be a dynamic and participatory gathering, constructed in collaboration with local and international partners.

WHAT IS THE GSEF?

The **Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)** is an international network that brings together local governments and civil society stakeholders committed to supporting the development of the Social Economy (SE).

GSEF aims to serve as a hub for sharing visions and experiences through cross-border collaboration and cooperation based on multilateral partnerships for an inclusive, equitable and human centered world for all of us.

Through the collaboration between social economy organizations and local governments, the GSEF pursues creation of quality jobs, fair growth, progress of grassroots democracy, and sustainable development. Values such as human dignity and sustainable ecology are to be the underlying principles for every activity of the GSEF.

This is the 4th edition of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF). At the association's founding meeting in 2014, the GSEF's members adopted a charter establishing its principles and operations, including the holding of a forum every two years. The first two forums were held in Seoul in 2013 and 2014. The third edition took place in Montreal in 2016.

Local governments

SE agents

Researchers

International organizations

Universities

The private sector

Civil society



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THEME

Undoubtedly, the Social Economy is a sector which makes a significant contribution to employment creation, sustainable growth and to a fairer income and wealth distribution. It is a sector which is able to combine profitability with social inclusion and democratic systems of governance, working alongside the public and private sectors in matching services to needs. Crucially, it is a sector which has weathered the economic crisis much better than others and is increasingly gaining recognition.

Nonetheless, much still needs to be done in increasing understanding, in raising awareness and in building public trust in the sector.

GSEF2018 aims to demonstrate that Social Economy enterprises in their diverse forms play an important role in increasing the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy in many different ways. Best practices will be presented in GSEF2018 mainly by SE and local government actors.

The Forum's central theme is the Social Economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable local development.

The theme revolves around three central ideas (values, competitiveness and inclusive and sustainable development), which are directly related to one of the main current debates at European and global level considering the social economy, in its various expressions, as a real and viable option to advance and grow socially and economically in a different way.

The values are the pillars of a new growth model and the roots that feed the social economy initiatives: self-management, mutual support, autonomy, equity, democracy, economic solidarity and commitment to society, the environment and sustainability.

On the other hand, it aims to demonstrate that competitiveness is not alien to the Social Economy, but rather, it accepts that it is the parameter used to measure part of its value. Combining competitiveness with values or, in other words, proposing an economic model where factors linked to people and their work as opposed to capital and its performance are the main reference, is the foundation of including this strong idea. The Social Economy is demonstrating its ability to enable local development capable of addressing the challenges linked to a sustainable growth model for economic activities, while meeting the requirements linked to a multicultural, ageing society with increasingly diverse ways.

Along these lines, the main thematic lines of the GSEF 2018 are:



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Theme	Sub-Theme
Co-creation of public policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public-Private collaboration strategies• Public purchase and social clauses• Social Economy in the public policies• Social Economy in Community Policy• Social Economy in the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development• Behaviour of the social economy in critical contexts: economic crisis, institutional crisis
Contribution of the SE to regional transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation• Socially Responsible Regions• Ecosystems of social innovation• Social Economy and citizenship in cooperation: transformation binomial• Social Economy and its contribution to post-conflict processes• The Basque Local Development System• MONDRAGON story
Challenges to the growth of SE entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Scope in the entities of Social Economy: financing instruments, visibility and regulatory framework• Experiences of alliances between entities of Social Economy• Fundraising and other tools for the creation and sustainability of Social Economy initiatives• Democratization of the governance models of SE entities• Monetization of the social value of organizations. A stakeholder-based approach
The future of work and employment: the role of SE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The value of work in society• Productive and reproductive work binomial• Education and youth, ensuring the future of the Social Economy• Irruption of technology and disappearance of jobs• Social & labour inclusion• Business transformation through social economy

BILBAO, Basque Country

Social Economy connects with the entrepreneurial spirit of the Basque Country and with its long-standing tradition of commitment to employment, responsibility, engagement and the democratisation of the workplace.

Bilbao, backed by its internationally renowned transformation, serves as an inspiration to cities worldwide and presents itself as an exceptional forum to discuss and to explore Social Economy challenges.

Information

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www.gsef2018.org

