



Global Forum  
for Social and Solidarity  
Economy

Global organization of local governments  
and civil society networks

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



*GSEF General Assembly in Dakar, May 5th 2023*

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## I. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

The **Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy** (hereinafter referred to as “GSEF”) is a global Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) network that aims to serve as a hub for sharing visions and experiences through collaboration across borders and cooperation based on multilateral (public-private-community) partnerships for an inclusive, equitable and human-centered world.

The development of GSEF began with the Seoul Declaration, which was adopted by eight local governments and nine SSE organizations during [GSEF2013](#), held in Seoul from November 5 to 7, 2013 on the theme ‘New Discovery of Collaboration’.

Following this first successful event, GSEF has held, since 2014, biennial international forums hosted by its member cities across the continents. [GSEF2014](#) was organized in Seoul with the founding General Assembly of GSEF to pursue the global expansion of knowledge-sharing and cooperative relationships among social economy actors. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the forum, [GSEF2016](#), which took place in Montreal on the subject of ‘Local governments and social economy stakeholders – allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities,’ was a very important milestone for the global visibility and expansion of the GSEF network. These forums are **one of the most prestigious international gatherings on SSE**, bringing together all levels of stakeholders, from international organizations, local/central governments, and civil society networks, for mutual learning, agenda setting, and knowledge exchanges.

[GSEF2018](#) took place in the city of Bilbao under the theme ‘Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development’. It gathered over 1,700 participants from 84 countries and successfully strengthened the momentum toward advancing the international agenda on SSE.

[GSEF2021](#) was held in Mexico City in a hybrid format. It showcased creative ideas and visions, practical proposals, and collaboration opportunities about how SSE can contribute to building inclusive and sustainable societies for everyone as a response to the current important momentum of political and social changes arising globally.

[GSEF2023](#) took place in Dakar and gathered 6,000 participants over six days. It included for the first time two special events: the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum and the Women’s Day for SSE. The forum addressed a cross-cutting theme: the transition from “informal” economies to collective and sustainable economies for our territories.

GSEF **accompanies local governments across the world in the collaboration process with SSE actors** toward the co-creation of public policies and the establishment of sustainable ecosystems conducive to the development of SSE.

GSEF’s long-running series of regional policy dialogues on different continents, including Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, is a good example of local governments and SSE actors gathering and discussing under common agenda and goals.

As of July 2023, GSEF brings together **84 members from 36 countries on all 5 continents**, including 32 local governments, 27 SSE networks and 25 SSE organizations/enterprises. As a GSEF member, you can share your experiences and learn from others, expand your network, and discuss best practices through different GSEF programs.

We look forward to welcoming you to the GSEF network! For detailed information about GSEF membership, please refer to the following information.

## I- MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

### 1. Full Membership (with voting rights)

It is open to local governments and SSE networks as detailed below.

- The *Local Government membership*: open to any local autonomous entity, government, and association at both the local and national level.
- The *Social and Solidarity Economy Network or Organization membership*: open to any regional, national, continental, and worldwide network or organization working in various fields of SSE including supporting organizations and associations.

A full member possesses the right to vote and is eligible to run for election.

### 2. Associate Membership

Open to any SSE organization wishing to actively participate in GSEF's activities and benefit from its networks.

Associate members do not have the right to vote and are not eligible to run for election.

### 3. Honorary Membership

Offered to individuals or organizations that have made a notable contribution to diverse SSE sectors and/or GSEF's activities. Candidates for honorary membership shall be nominated by the GSEF Steering Committee and approved by the General Assembly.

### 4. Partners

Partners include intergovernmental organizations, national governmental agencies, and civil society and private sector organizations working with GSEF in a broader sector including social economy and appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.

## II- APPROVAL AND WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

### Approval

Membership applications are reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and submitted for decision to the GSEF Steering Committee.

### Withdrawal

A member may withdraw its membership by informing the GSEF Secretariat in writing.

### Warning and Disqualification

The GSEF Steering Committee may take the necessary steps to decide on the disqualification of a member if that member is harming or contravening the vision, mission, objectives, and/or the Charter of GSEF. The GSEF Steering Committee shall go through the designated formalities to disqualify the member.

### III- BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

#### Membership Benefits:

- Become a part of a solid and recognised SSE network.
- Access a platform to connect with other members and SSE players in your country and worldwide.
- Exchange ideas on best regional practices from around the world and receive sound advice on how to implement them.
- Acquire tools and the support of renowned experts with local and regional knowledge to build a global strategy for the development of SSE in your region.
- Make your voice heard on regional, national and international scenes and contribute to the development of agendas.
- Participate in GSEF's decision-making processes.<sup>1</sup>
- Boost the visibility of your organization and promote your activities through GSEF's communication means.

#### Membership Responsibilities:

- Support and collaborate on GSEF's projects and activities.
- Practice solidarity in the exchange of experiences, knowledge and information for the development of SSE ecosystems.
- Promote the importance of collaboration and co-construction among local governments and Social and Solidarity economy actors.
- Pay an annual fee to contribute to GSEF's activities at the service of all members.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicable to *Full membership* only

#### IV- MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members are required to pay an annual membership fee starting from the year they join. For the first year, the fee is calculated on a pro rata basis, depending on the time of year they join. For example, a member who joins halfway through the year will pay 50% of the annual fee. From the following year onward, the full annual fee is due according to the established schedule. Membership fees vary based on the population and GDP per capita of the country from which the member originates or in which the duly authorized government headquarters is located. The membership fee table (in US dollars) is shown below.

- **Full Member - Local government membership fee**

Population ('000)		0~999	1000~4999	5000~9999	10000~
GDP per capita (USD)	0~999	300	400	500	600
	1000~9999	1000	1500	2000	2500
	10000~14999	2000	4000	6000	8000
	15000~	4000	6000	8000	10000

- **Full Member - Social and Solidarity Economy network membership fee**

Population ('000)		0~999	1000~4999	5000~9999	10000~
GDP per capita (USD)	0~999	50	70	80	90
	1000~9999	100	130	150	180
	10000~14999	200	300	400	500
	15000~	300	500	750	1000

- **Full Member - Regional and International SSE Network membership fee**

# of countries where members are located	Membership fee
0~9	500
10~29	1000
30~49	1500
50+	2000

- **Associate Member:** *50% of full members' fee*

**Note1.** The latest World Economic Outlook Database published by the International Monetary Fund\* shall be applied in calculating the GDP per capita in the table above. The GDP per capita is based on purchasing power parity. **Note2.** The membership fee amount in any given year is determined based on the GDP of the year immediately preceding the previous year. **Note3.** The population figure used for the calculation of local governments' membership fee shall be based on their respective city population, while the membership fee of national SSE networks shall be calculated on the basis of the total population of their respective country. \* The latest World Economic Outlook Database published by the International Monetary Fund can be found at [IMF website](#).

## II. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

### 1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Please tick the membership category for which you are applying.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Membership</b>
<i>A full member possesses the right to vote and is eligible to run for election. It is open to local governments and social and solidarity economy networks and organizations as detailed below.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Local government membership</b>
<i>is open to any local autonomous entity, government, and associations at both the local and national level.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Social and Solidarity Economy Network or Organization membership</b>
<i>is open to any regional, national, continental, and worldwide networks and organizations working in various fields of SSE including supporting organizations and associations.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate Membership</b>
<i>is open to any local government and SSE organization wishing to actively participate in GSEF's activities and benefit from its networks.</i>
<b>Honorary Membership**</b>
<i>is given to an individual or an organization that has made a notable contribution to diverse SSE sectors and/or GSEF activities. An honorary membership shall be nominated by the GSEF Steering Committee and be approved by the General Assembly.</i>
<b>Partner**</b>
<i>Partners include intergovernmental organizations, national governmental agencies, and civil society and private sector organizations working with GSEF in a broader sector including SSE and appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.</i>

\*\* If you or your organization wishes to be considered for an Honorary Membership or to join as a Partner, please contact the GSEF Secretariat, for these two categories are appointed by the GSEF Steering Committee.

Please provide the following information required to calculate the amount of the membership fee. You can check your index on the following website : [World Economic Outlook Databases](https://data.oecd.org/world-economic-outlook-databases/)

<b>Name of the City / Country</b>	
<b>Population</b> <i>* If you are a local government, please indicate the population of your city. If you are an SSE network/enterprise/organization, please put the latest statistics of your country population.</i>	
<b>GDP per capita based on PPP (USD)</b>	

## 2. CONTACT DETAILS

Organization General Information	
<b>Official Organization name</b>	
<b>Acronym</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	
<b>Registered Office Address</b> <i>(include city and country)</i>	
<b>Telephone No.</b> <i>(include area code)</i>	
<b>Email address 1</b>	
<b>Email address 2</b>	
<b>Website</b>	
<b>Social networks</b>	
<b>Main language</b> <i>(single choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish
<b>Secondary language</b> <i>(single choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish
<b>Organization type</b> <i>(single choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Government institution / State agency <input type="checkbox"/> University or research institute <input type="checkbox"/> Social finance institution <input type="checkbox"/> NGO / Association <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Social enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Local government network <input type="checkbox"/> SSE actors network (CSO) <input type="checkbox"/> Research network <input type="checkbox"/> Social/solidarity-based finance network <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholders network (Actors & Local Governments) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual personal
<b>Scale of action</b> <i>(single choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Regional (several countries) <input type="checkbox"/> International (several continents)

Legal Representative	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Different title, specify :
<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position / Title</b>	
<b>Term of Office</b>	<i>(mm/dd/yyyy) - (mm/dd/yyyy)</i>
<b>Telephone No.</b> <i>(include area code)</i>	
<b>Email address 1</b>	
<b>Email address 2</b>	

Focal point n°1 for Liaison with the GSEF Secretariat	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Different title, specify :
<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position / Title</b>	
<b>Telephone No.</b> <i>(include area code)</i>	
<b>Email address 1</b>	
<b>Email address 2</b>	

Focal point n°2 for Liaison with the GSEF Secretariat	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Different title, specify :
<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position / Title</b>	
<b>Telephone No.</b> <i>(include area code)</i>	
<b>Email address 1</b>	
<b>Email address 2</b>	

### 3. SIGNATURE

- I guarantee that the information provided in this document is accurate.
- I certify that I have read the GSEF Charter (in the annex) and that the organisation I represent accepts its terms.

<b>Signature of legal representative</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position / Function</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

#### Some Important Notes

- *In cases of applications submitted by local governments, the signature of the mayor or of the appropriate delegation only is considered to be valid.*
- *In cases of applications submitted by SSE network/organization/social enterprises and others, the signature of the head of the organization/network/enterprise or of the appropriate delegation only is considered to be valid.*

### 4. OTHER QUESTIONS

**1. Please briefly describe the current status of your city/organization in relation with SSE. You may also provide us with more information such as legal status, governing rules, ongoing activities, and plans in terms of SSE.**

**2. How did you get to know GSEF ?**

**3. What do you expect from joining GSEF?**

**4. How would you like to collaborate with GSEF?**

**5. Please list any other membership or network to which you are affiliated.**

**6. If any, please attach the recommendation letter from the existing GSEF member.**

**Note:** Membership applications are reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and submitted for decision to the GSEF Steering Committee. The whole registration procedure is detailed in a separate clause. Please send the completed membership application form via e-mail, mail or fax to the GSEF secretariat, at [gsef@gsef-net.org](mailto:gsef@gsef-net.org). After receiving the application, the GSEF staff shall contact you regarding the membership fee.