



**FINAL
REPORT**

Global Social Economy Forum 2018



BILBAO2018
GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

Social Economy and Cities

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

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FOREWORD

We are honored to welcome all distinguished guests and participants from all around the globe; representatives of local governments, UN agencies and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) stakeholders from more than 80 countries gathered here in Bilbao for the fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) 2018.

GSEF as an international network that brings together local governments and civil society stakeholders committed to support the development of SSE, we believe in the key roles that the SSE plays in developing and implementing effective initiatives.

We welcome that more and more governments are turning to civil societies, particularly to SSE actors by co-constructing sustainable and inclusive strategies of revitalizing economy. SSE has been recognized not only as a strategy of responding to the needs and aspirations of citizens, but also as a way of strengthening citizen participation.

Strong partnerships between local governments and SSE actors are the key to the future. SSE networks are committed to enhancing their contribution to the city's socio-economic development and in return, cities are committed to better support SSE, as the theme of the GSEF2018 **Social Economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable local development** illustrates.

In order to continue its competitiveness in the era of rapid economic, social and environmental changes, we need to explore new ways of doing things together. In Bilbao we can learn lessons from each other and strengthen our collective actions.

We believe in the power of all stakeholders working together for an inclusive and sustainable development through co-constructed policies and innovative partnerships that go beyond the boundaries of sectors, types of organizations and means of implementation. Putting the economy at the service of the common good and prioritizing people over profit through collective action and ownership have been a winning strategy of SSE.

Let's renew our practices and energies during these days of the GSEF2018. With our countless efforts of working together through this acknowledged global gathering of SSE we can make our dreams come true.

"A dream we dream alone is only a dream. A dream we dream together is reality"

Let us leave this conference with an even greater commitment than before to foster sustainable and inclusive development that leaves no one behind.

Sincerely yours,



Won Soon Park
Mayor of Seoul

Between October 1st and 3rd over a thousand people, including public administration representatives, mayors, third sector agents, international Organizations and social economy experts meet at GSEF2018. It is undoubtedly a very important occasion for Bilbao where we have many exciting events taking place this year.

Known as **Social Economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable local development**, GSEF Bilbao 2018 allows our city to join a global reference network in the social economy field, together with Seoul and Montreal, where the three prior editions were held. It will be the first time this forum is held in Europe, which truly speaks to Bilbao's commitment to promoting policies linked to a growth model based on sustainability and inclusion.

In fact, Bilbao's priority areas of action include leadership in social economy Policies, aimed at building a more inclusive and unified city, rooted in its entrepreneurial spirit and with a focus on social responsibility.

We would love to invite you to learn about initiatives such as "Bilbao, City of Values" and the "Social Pact for Bilbao" which, along with other municipal services and initiatives, are a reflection of the institutional and citizen commitment to creating a cohesive, solidary, and inclusive society in all of its dimensions. We also suggest that you go in depth in the idiosyncrasy of Basque society, which has a high degree of social cohesion, largely due to the implementation of a social economic model that has become a hallmark of its own: cooperativism.

Over these three days, we will demonstrate our experience in Bilbao and share with experts models, lessons and best practice which models, learning, and good practices that I am sure will help us continue to promote a people-based economic model in our society, from an institutional, social and business perspective.

As the host city of GSEF Bilbao 2018, we want this forum to act as an idea laboratory where agents from the three sectors (public, private, and civil society) work together to promote a more just, inclusive, and sustainable economic system. In short, an economy that puts its people first.

Eskerrik asko eta ongi etorriak! (thank you very much and welcome!)



Juan Mari Aburto
Mayor of Bilbao

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1.

PRESENTATION

The fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), was co-organized by the City of Bilbao and the GSEF, together with the main social economy networks that represent different families of the Social Economy in the Basque Country. GSEF2018 took place from October 1 to 3, 2018 in Bilbao, Spain. The purpose of this document is to collect the most relevant aspects of GSEF2018 from its organization, development and themes discussed, serving as Final Report.

Objectives of the fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum in 2018:

- Share the best practices of the entire planet on co-constructed public policies for the development of the Social Economy in urban areas.
- Integrate success factors for competitiveness taking into account the core values of the Social Economy.
- Allow international exchange to promote the development of the Social Economy.
- Identify opportunities and problems related to collaboration between local governments and social economy actors.
- Promote the knowledge of the Social Economy and the recognition of its role in local development, especially among public sector, civil society and private sector.
- Strengthen the Association of GSEF and its capacity to carry out its mission.

This document gathers the process of organization of the Forum describing its most significant milestones. The first chapter presents most relevant data regarding participation, origins of the participants and the evaluation. The following is a summary of the content of the Forum, both plenary sessions, where debates took place on the important issues, and the



presented initiatives, categorized by themes and sub-themes. The final chapter explains about the achievements of the Forum which will become part of the legacy of the City of Bilbao.

2.

PROCESS OF ORGANIZING GSEF2018

Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

When the City Council of Bilbao took over to host the fourth edition of the GSEF Forum from the City of Montreal during the third edition in 2016, the city decided to form a space of connection and collaboration with the Social Economy sector of the city as a first step of the organization, to be able to share the planning and organization of the Forum in coherence with Bilbao, the City of Values: Bilbao Balioen Hiria (in Basque language), which means Bilbao advocates collaborative work with all agents, companies, institutions and citizens in the city.

For this purpose, at the beginning of 2017 the City of Bilbao invited all representing entities of the Social Economy, as well as the rest of the governmental institutions, through relevant Departments or the Offices directly related to the Social Economy policies, to a meeting where the city of Bilbao communicated its decision to host the fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum and proposed to create a Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The objective of this committee was to partner with the City Council for organizing the Forum.

The proposal was well received and in that same meeting, the creation of the Local Organizing Committee of the GSEF2018 was agreed on February 6, 2017. This Local Organizing Committee is constituted of the following members:

Institutions:

Social Economy Directorate. Department of Labor and Justice. Basque Government
Social Services Area. Department of Employment and Social Policies. Basque Government

Provincial Council of Bizkaia. Department of Social Action
EUDEL – Basque Association of Municipalities
City of Arrasate – Mondragon
Bilbao Ekintza / Bilbao City Council

Social Economy Entities:

KONFEKOOP – Confederation of Cooperatives of Euskadi
ASLE – Association of Labor Societies of Euskadi
SAREEN SAREA – Network of Third Sector of Euskadi
REASEUSKADI – Alternative and Solidarity Economy Network
ELHABE – Association for the social and labor inclusion of people with disabilities
GIZATEA – Association of insertion companies of the Basque Country

The Local Organizing Committee delegated to the Bilbao International (Bilbao Ekintza in Basque language) the responsibility for the organization of GSEF2018 under the direct supervision of Mr. Xabier Ochandiano, Bilbao City Councilor for Social Economy, and always in direct collaboration with the Public Institutions, the Social Economy Entities and the GSEF network itself.

Bilbao International is a municipal entity belonging to the Bilbao City Council that promotes the generation of economic and social wealth for Bilbao.

Given the size of the Forum, it was considered necessary to contract entities who could serve as Academic and Technical Secretariat. As a result of the bidding processes, LKS, a consulting company as Academic Secretariat and EVENTIA, an event organizing company as Technical Secretariat were selected.



LOC members and the GSEF Co-Chair at the ceremony of giving plates of gratitude

The work of the Academic Secretariat is to support the definition of content, the identification and relationships with speakers, and coordination in communications, preparing information and reporting. For its part, the work of the Technical Secretariat is to support in all aspects of logistics for speakers, panelists and invited guests.

Since July 2017 the activities of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) have intensified and the frequency of the LOC meetings has increased. It is in that month when the Academic Secretariat presented the first proposal of the main theme and basic content of the forum. From that moment onward, a collaborative work system initiated through which the Academic Secretariat prepared proposals for content details and Call for Proposals for the selection of initiatives. In short, all the necessary activities to set up a program of the event were shared at the LOC meeting and open to questions and answers among the members. In this way, the LOC was constituted as the central space for the organization of the Forum, where the successive milestones have been approved and the preparation work has progressed.

Since the first meeting that served as constitution of the Committee in February 2017, until the celebration of the Forum in October 2018, LOC had 15 meetings, and maintained a large number of contacts during the interval periods.

LOC, in addition to the above mentioned tasks, also organized site visits, which brought quite a huge amount of work for the group since the preparation of the site visits forced the members to mobilize their own organizations and networks for a full varied and attractive program. The site visits were well appreciated by participants. LOC has also played an important role in the dissemination and communication of the Forum as well as in the mobilization of people with the aim of providing assistance to achieve the same level of previous editions. These efforts evidently from various points of view were resulted with great success.

Their work received recognition in the Closing Ceremony of the Forum, from the hands of the GSEF Co-Chair, Mr. Joung Youl Kim. Each member received a plate of gratitude for the work done by all the LOC members.

Collaboration and coordination with the GSEF Secretariat

Together with the LOC, Bilbao International provided collaboration, coordination and support to the GSEF Secretariat and its Steering Committee, with whom it had six skype meetings. The dedication and support in the mobilization of its members and partners, discussing and developing content and international diffusion of the GSEF Secretariat has been significant. The Secretariat has played an important role in supporting Bilbao to maintain coherence and traceability with the previous Forums, sharing the experiences and lessons learned in previous editions.

The GSEF Secretariat organized several sessions with themes of Africa, Youth and International Cooperation as well as the Youth Festival on the first day of the forum, inviting not only the young people who participated as speakers of the sessions, but also those from

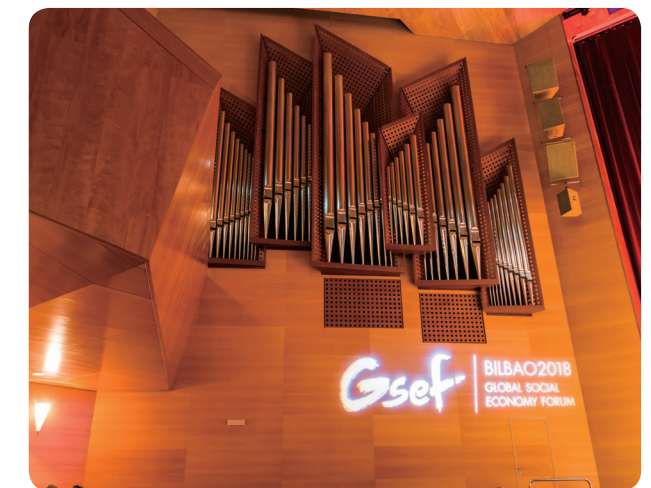


Youth Social Changemakers Festival

the city and the region sharing their initiatives and experiences in the social economy sector.

Venue

Given the magnitude of the event, GSEF2018 estimated from the outset to host a large number of participants and speakers (in the previous edition GSEF 2016 the number of participants was around 1,500) and by virtue of the needs for different types of space for different activities. A venue composed of various sizes of rooms was required. After visiting various options and a careful analysis of the existing options in the municipality, in addition to criteria of location, connectivity or availability of means, the EUSKALDUNA JAUREGIA Conference Center was chosen since it can accommodate the large volume of expected participants and has the diversity of rooms and spaces required for the workshop sessions as well.



Euskalduna Conference Center Auditorium

Opened on February 19, 1999, the EUSKALDUNA JAUREGIA Conference Center is a very unique building; one of the flagships of the new Bilbao of the 21st century.



Euskalduna Conference Center outside view

The Opening and Closing sessions and Plenary Sessions took place in the Auditorium, which has a total capacity of 2,164 people.

The rest of the activities (workshop sessions, presentation of initiatives, panel discussions and meetings) took place in the five rooms (Room A1, A2, A3, A4 and Hall E). Side events were

also developed in the common spaces or networking areas.

Honorary Committee and Orientation Committee

For the organization of the GSEF2018, it was essential to have a vast local network and international strategic partners to contribute to the development of the content of the program and the promotion of the event through various networks.

In this line, it was proposed to create an Honorary Committee and an Orientation Committee, by incorporating key organizations and personalities at global level.

Both Committees were constituted in February 2018, with the participation of a total of 52 members representing organizations and institutions linked to the Social Economy from around the world, 35 members in the Honorary Committee and 18 members in the Orientation Committee.

The configuration of the Committees took into account the representativeness from different families of the Social Economy and different continents, giving in at this forum special relevance to the European and Basque representation.

The organization of the Forum, through the internal work team of Bilbao International, with the support of the Academic Secretariat, kept both Committees informed of the most relevant advances in terms of the selection of initiatives and content, and both committees shared their contributions, which was then integrated in the preparation process.

Both Committees have been a relevant support in the identification of the plenary session speakers and with several members were invited as speakers.

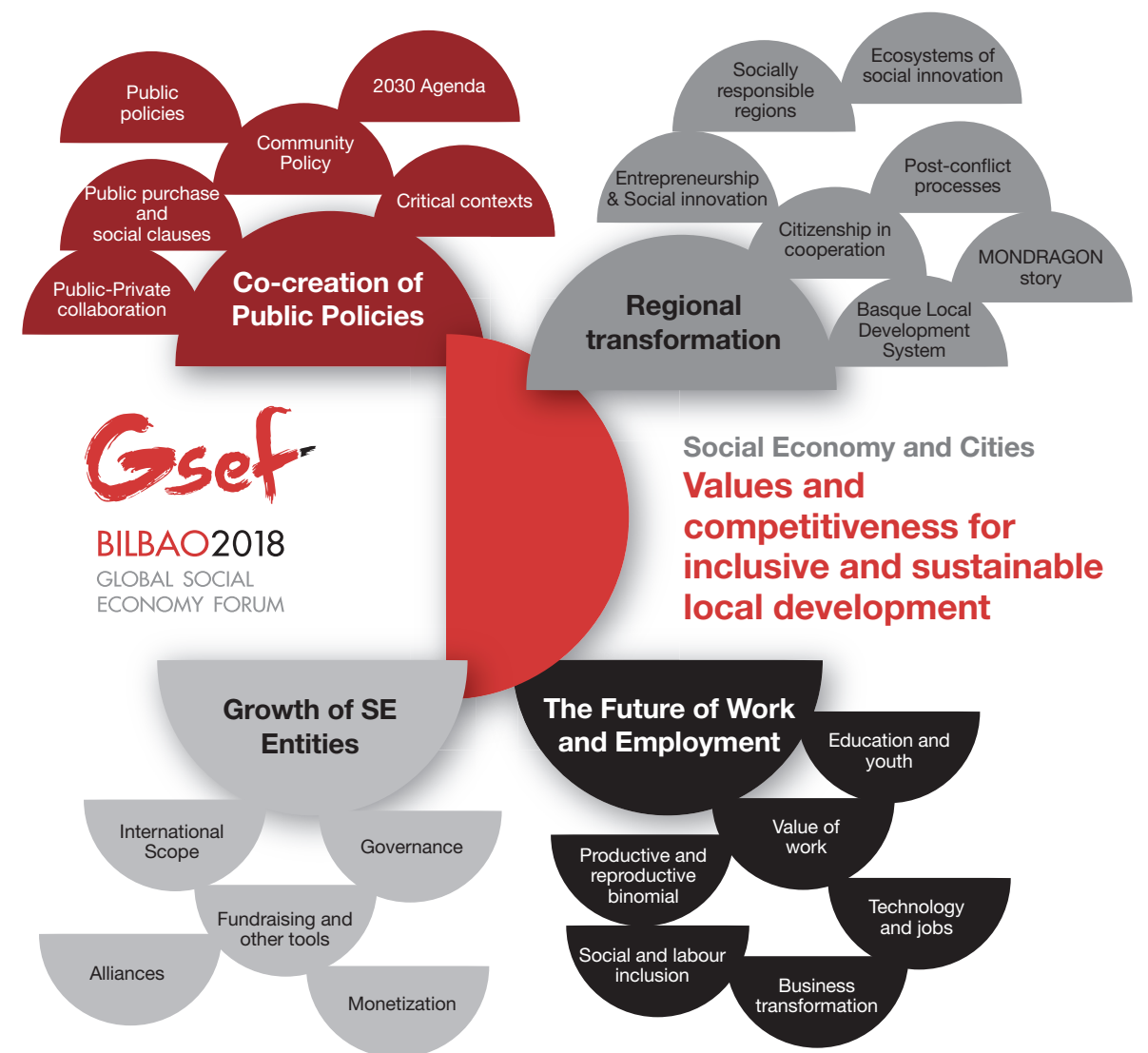
Themes and sub-themes

The definition of the main theme of GSEF2018 is composed of the most relevant milestones of the Forum. The Academic Secretariat made the first proposal of the main theme and sub-

themes, which was presented to the LOC in July 2017 and to the GSEF Steering Committee in September of that same year. After a period of discussion and collection of contributions, in November 2017, the document of the main theme and sub-themes was finally approved. The main theme of the Forum is Social economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development.

This main theme which incorporates the terms of social economy and cities is the hallmark of GSEF as an international association of local governments and civil society actors committed to the development of the social and solidarity economy. It is articulated in four main ideas. They are directly related to one of the discussions taking place at the European and world level regarding the consideration of the social economy, in its diverse expressions, as a real and viable option for a progress and social and economic development in a different way.

The concern for the increase of inequality even in countries and societies considered to be developed ones, has much to do with the growing interest of the European Union and many local and central governments in relation to the role that the social economy model can play



in the generation of collective wealth. It is not a growth model that generates activity and wealth, and later its distribution, but it supposes a model that distributes the wealth within the origin of the activity where it was generated. At the same time, it allocates an essential part of its surpluses in favor of sustainable development objectives, minimizing dysfunctions or more restrictive policies for the redistribution of surpluses.

The Social Economy has shown in those years of severe economic crisis and significant loss of jobs a greater capacity being resilient, although it has not been something new, mainly because it includes socio-business policies which are more transparent, sustainable and responsible.

From the European perspective, where the city of Bilbao is located, the Forum aims to lead the world and debate on the capacity of the social economy to become a real alternative for the economic and social development of cities, to the extent where social economy is able to adapt to the existing established rules of economy model, wherever it is needed, as well as to propose local development models which need to articulate sustainable, inclusive and viable sectors of activity, so that they can contribute to a better future for their cities and inhabitants.

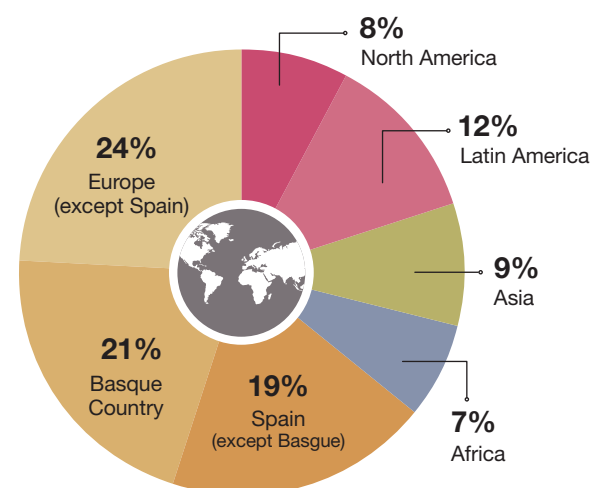
Website as the image of the forum

Parallel to the definition of the main theme and sub-themes, the corporate image of GSEF2018 was predesigned and the forum's website www.gsef2018.org was launched.

On November 9, 2017 "Save the date" campaign was launched along with the first version of the website in English. From there, the website was translated into other two official GSEF languages (French and Spanish) and then also into Basque (the official language of the Basque Country).

Call for Proposals

Procedencia	nº
Africa	37
Asia	53
Spain	104
Basque Country	117
Europe(except Spain)	135
North America	45
Latin America	69



The fundamentally important part of the program is the initiatives which are presented at the forum. The international Call for Proposals for Social Economy initiatives for the GSEF2018 was launched on December 20, 2017. Initially it was proposed as deadline of February 28, 2018, however it was decided to extend the deadline for another month, until March 23, 2018.

In total, 560 initiatives were submitted from 64 countries.

Given the high number of initiatives submitted, the Academic Secretariat proceeded to make the first assessment based on several criteria: adequacy with the subject, sub-themes and geographical origins (guaranteeing equal representation in GSEF2018 of all continents) and type of entity.

The first assessment was shared at the end of April 2018, and the LOC and the GSEF Secretariat completed their first selection. After the first selection there remained still a large number of proposals. However due to the limit of the structure and time of the Forum, which had a duration of 2 and a half days, the forum could only hold parallel 4 sessions with therefore not exceeding 108 initiatives.

Moreover several relevant partner organizations who had presented several initiatives: such as RIPESS, OECD, ILO, requested the possibility of organizing thematic workshops.

Given the difficulty of reducing the number of selected proposals, a matrix was drawn up. Each member of the LOC made its own selection using the agreed matrix and the Academic Secretariat, once all the contributions were collected, presented a final selection, which was also discussed with the GSEF Secretariat and finally approved in the month of May 2018.

The communication of acceptance or rejection of the initiatives started at the end of May and ended at the beginning of June.

Poster session

With the preselected initiatives that finally did not pass to the final list, a joint work was carried out in the LOC and a total of 37 initiatives were selected (28 from the Basque Country and 9 from other Spanish cities). They were invited to exhibit their initiatives in form of posters in common areas and networking spaces.



Participants visiting the Poster session area

Program

As it was with the selection of initiatives, the program composition followed a similar line of work. The Academic Secretariat prepared a proposal and then shared to work with the LOC.

The work of the definition of topics and speakers of the plenary sessions went from January to May, parallel to the selection of initiatives. The first version of the program was published on the website in June. From that moment, periodic updates were done constantly even during the days of the Forum.

The program was finally decided in the following formats: Plenary Sessions, Workshops, Site



Participants during one of the thematic workshops

Visits and Side Events.

- 5 plenary sessions where a total of 31 speakers representing cities and international entities and networks of the Social Economy from 4 continents have participated to discuss and give testimony of the social economy as a leverage for more equitable and sustainable social and economic development.
- 29 workshops distributed in 9 sessions where 102 initiatives have been presented, selected from the nearly 600 proposals received from December 2017 to March 23, 2018. Among them, one workshop was specifically added to present the MONDRAGON experiences
- 3 thematic workshops and 1 side event organized by the GSEF Secretariat : Youth session, Africa session, International Cooperation session and Youth Festival
- 2 workshops organized by the European Commission
- 7 workshops organized by various international partners: ILO, OECD, UNRISD, Fair Trade



Participants during one of the plenary sessions

Organization/WTO, RIPESS, UCLG, INAISE

- 37 initiatives presented in poster format
- 11 site visits
- 3 parallel side events organized by GSEF partners, and 2 presentations of reports at a European level: “Social Report 2017 of the insertion companies” presented by FAEDEI and the “Recent Evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union” by CIRIEC.

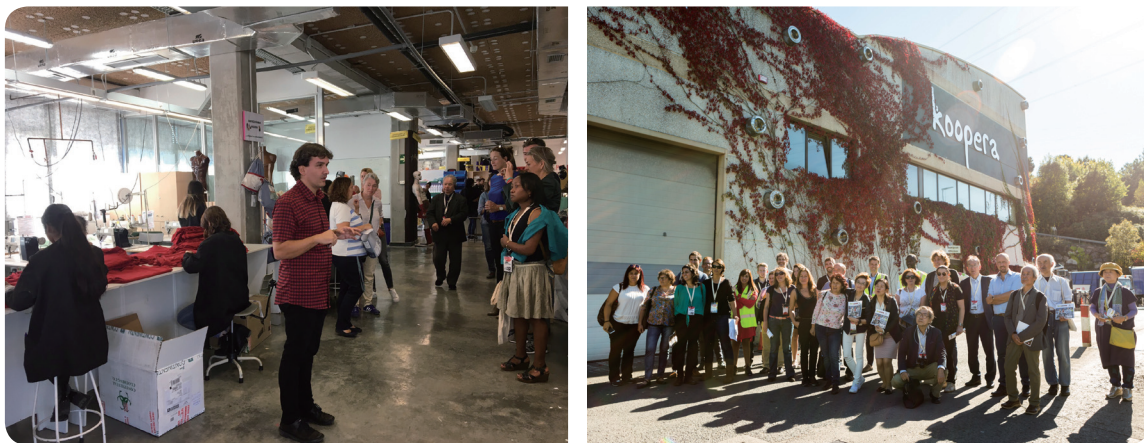
The parallel side events organized by the GSEF partners had diverse objectives and these activities brought together more than 400 people: the Youth Social Changemakers Festival with the sponsorship from the Korea Land & Housing Corporation provided a space and opportunity for young people committed to the Social Economy to gather and share their views, experiences and ideas; C.I.T.I.E.S presented their projects of research and knowledge sharing for Social Economy; REAS Euskadi and RIPESS presented the preparatory process for the World Social Forum on Transformative Economy to be held in the year 2020 in Barcelona.

In the course of the Forum, Social Economy Europe, CEPES (Confederation of Spanish Enterprises of Social Economy), Konfekoop (Basque Confederation of Cooperatives) and RIPESS (International Network to Promote Social and Solidarity Economy) held several institutional and working meetings taking advantage of the presence of its members in Bilbao.

Site Visits

Once the themes and sub-themes of GSEF2018 were defined, it was considered as priority to complement the activities of the forum with site visits, so that people attending the forum could have the opportunity to get to learn about relevant local entities and projects in the field of Social Economy.

The selection of these visits was planned and offered by the LOC members. A total of 11 Site Visits were organized in a thematic itinerary format, so that each itinerary could provide visits to several places. A total of 495 people participated in the site visits and visited 32 entities and enterprises of the Social Economy in Bilbao and Basque Country including MONDRAGON Corporation.



Site visits arranged for the participants of the GSEF2018

A fee of 10 euros was charged for all site visits, except for the visit to Mondragon which was of 15 euros. Having a limited number of places in each visit, an inexpensive fee was considered to be necessary but could guarantee the interest and commitment of the participants.

Dissemination and communication

The dissemination and communication has been one of the keys to success of GSEF2018.

All entities of the LOC have mobilized their respective networks and partners. In the same way, the GSEF members and the Honorary Committee and Orientation Committee have been engaged in this work as well.

In order to facilitate the work of dissemination, various newsletters were prepared and sent to the members of the LOC and the GSEF network. The sending of these newsletters was done at key moments in the organization of the forum: the final dates of the event, launch of the international call to present initiatives, opening of the registration, uploading of the official program on the official website, updating of the information of the speakers of the plenary

sessions and with the selected initiatives.

Several banners were also sent to all the stakeholders to encourage them to upload GSEF2018 banners on their websites.

At the same time, the GSEF Secretariat, the Academic Secretariat and the Bilbao City Council utilized all the opportunities to spread and promote the Forum.



GSEF2018 official press conference at Bilbao City Hall

Another very important work was accomplished with huge local impact. Through the collaboration with the National Organization of the Blind People of Spain ONCE dedicated the lottery coupon of the date of October 3, 2018 to the celebration of the GSEF2018.



Sponsors

The GSEF2018 was sponsored by three organizations:

LABORAL KUTXA Laboral Kutxa is a credit union bank, born out of the merger between Caja Laboral and Ipar Kutxa. The merger project was announced in 2012.

MONDRAGON CORPORATION The Mondragon Corporation is a group of cooperatives and companies that originated in the Basque Country and is currently spread throughout the rest of Spain and the five continents. It is first Basque business group and the tenth important business group in Spain, as well as the largest cooperative group in the world.

BASQUE GOVERNMENT The Social Economy Directorate of the Basque Government

(Ministry of Employment and Justice) is also member the Local Organizing Committee.

Financial support for speakers

The Forum organization provided the speakers with financial travel package. The travel support consisted of free registration fee and accommodation of up to 3 hotel nights for all speakers of the plenary sessions and initiatives.

Those who sent requests for financial support were also provided with a travel grant to cover all or part of the expenses including flights tickets.

Registration and registration fee

Registration to the forum started on March 23, 2018.

The registration fee was set based on the consensus decision in the Local Organizing Committee. It was decided that the fee would be of 100 euros. Once the registration started, there was an evaluation of possibility of offering a reduced fee of 80 euros to those groups with large number of participants who faced difficulties of paying the full fee upon their request.

During the months prior to the forum, the Invitations Policy was established. Invitations were distributed to: Entities of Social Economy belonging to any of the organizations of the LOC (one invitation per entity), Members of the GSEF network (one invitation per entity).

In addition to the invitations, speakers and moderators in the Plenary Sessions and in the Initiatives Workshops were exempt from the registration fee.



The official reception hosted by the Mayor of Bilbao at the City Hall

3.

GSEF2018 IN NUMBERS

Participation

GSEF2018 has united more than 1,600 people coming from 75 countries and 327 cities. Among the participants more than 200 were representatives of local governments.

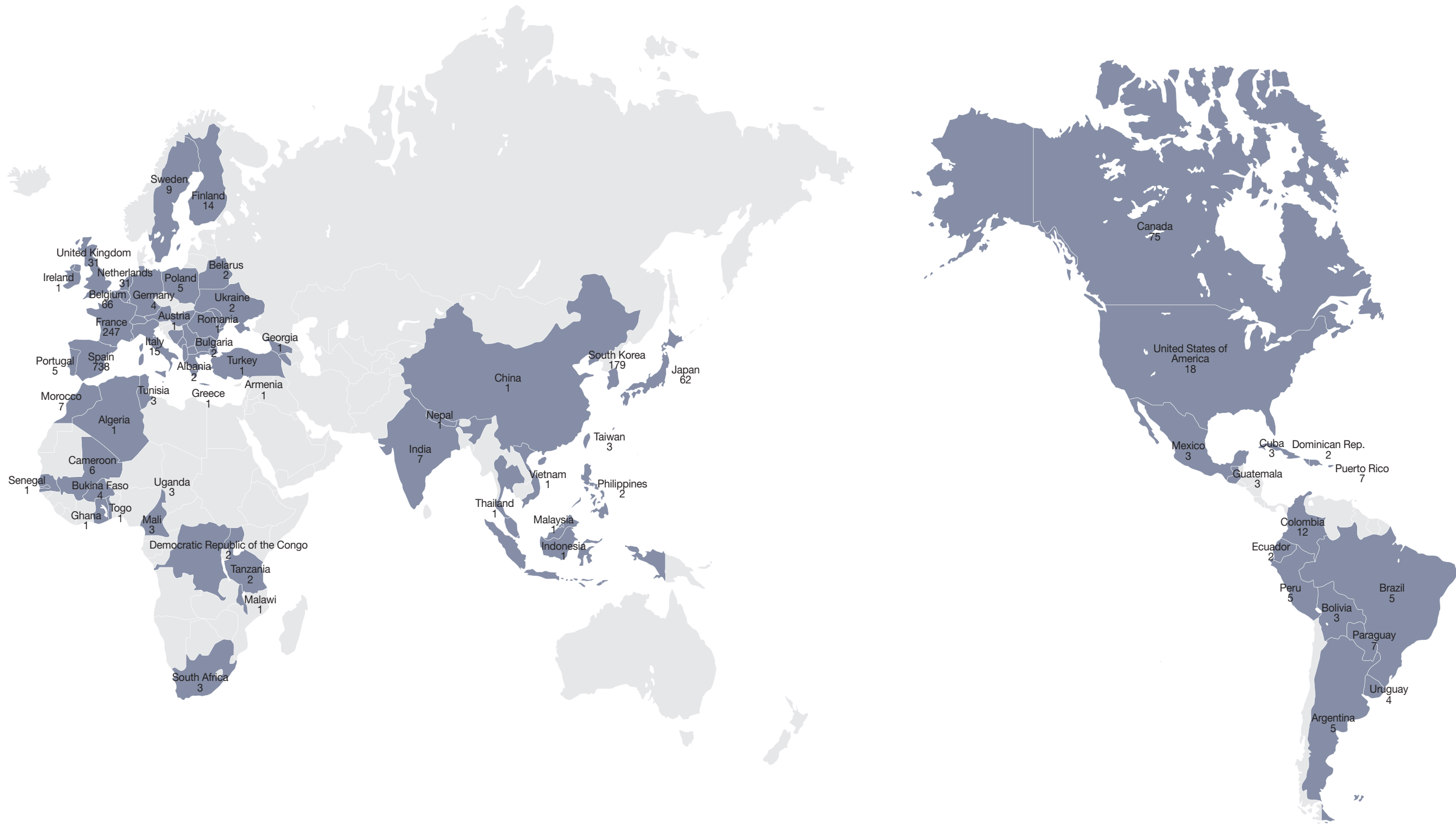
This participation far exceeded initial expectations. High attendance rates were maintained both in the different plenary sessions in the main Auditorium and in the workshops for the presentation of initiatives. In some of the rooms it was necessary to limit access for having exceeded the allowed capacity.

Regarding the type of organizations who attended the Forum is as follows:

- 60% representatives of organizations and networks of the Social Economy
- 18% representatives of local governments
- 10% representatives of civil society
- 6% representatives of universities
- 6% other participants (media, citizens)

In relation to origins of participants, as its shown in the following graphic, it is relevant to highlight that 61% came from countries outside Spain, and specifically one third came from countries outside Europe.

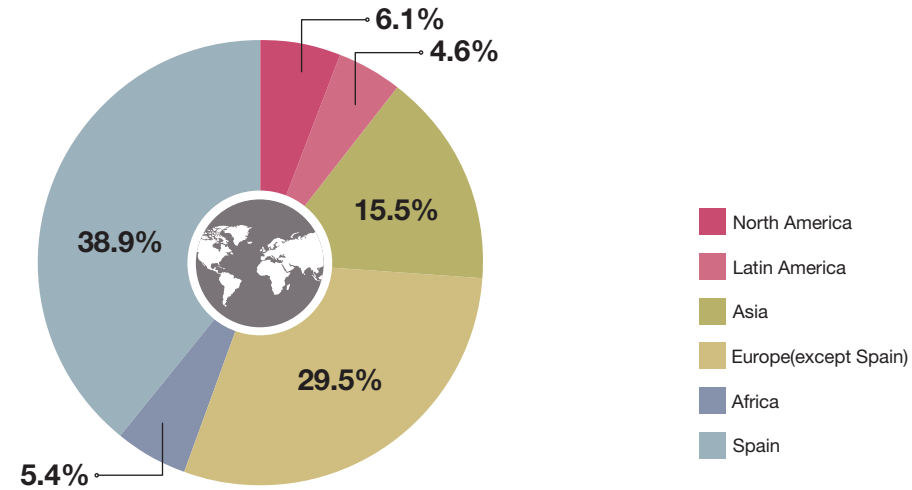
● Countries of origins of participants ●



* not all the countries are marked due to space issue on this map

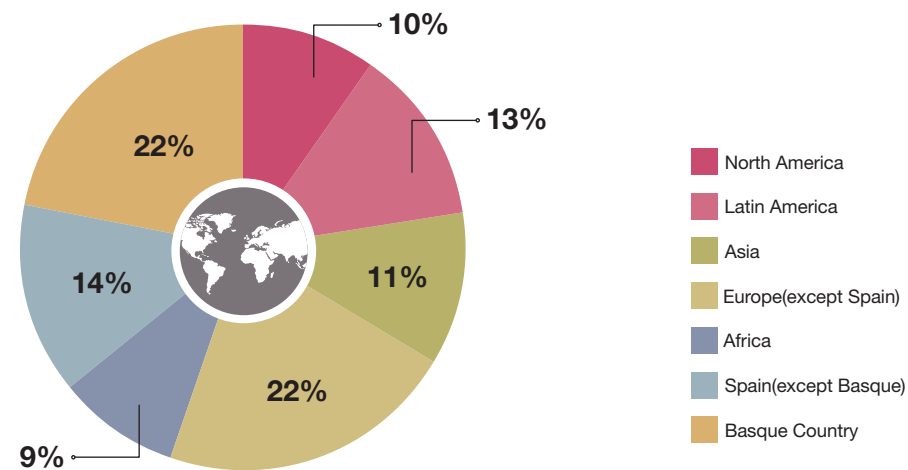
The impact of the forum beyond European borders is significant as it can be seen in the following map:

• Geographical distribution of the origins of participants at the GSEF2018 •



In relation to the origin of the entities that presented initiatives in the forum, the need to ensure the representation of the different geographical areas was always taken into consideration.

• Origins of the submitted proposals for GSEF2018 •



Media coverage

The fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum GSEF2018 had a great repercussion in various media, mainly in the written press, radio, television, internet and social networks. In this sense, the local media widely covered the event, thus increasing its dissemination.

In the same way, the entities that were part of the LOC, as well as other organizations that have participated in the forum, disseminated GSEF2018 news and information through their corporate websites and media channels. Since many of them are from international organizations (RIPESS, Social Economy Europe, European Union, UCLG, REVES, etc.), this has intensified the international projection of the forum.

Social networks, specifically Twitter, have generated a significant impact:

On October 1st the hashtag # GSEF2018 was a trending topic in Spain at 10: 30.

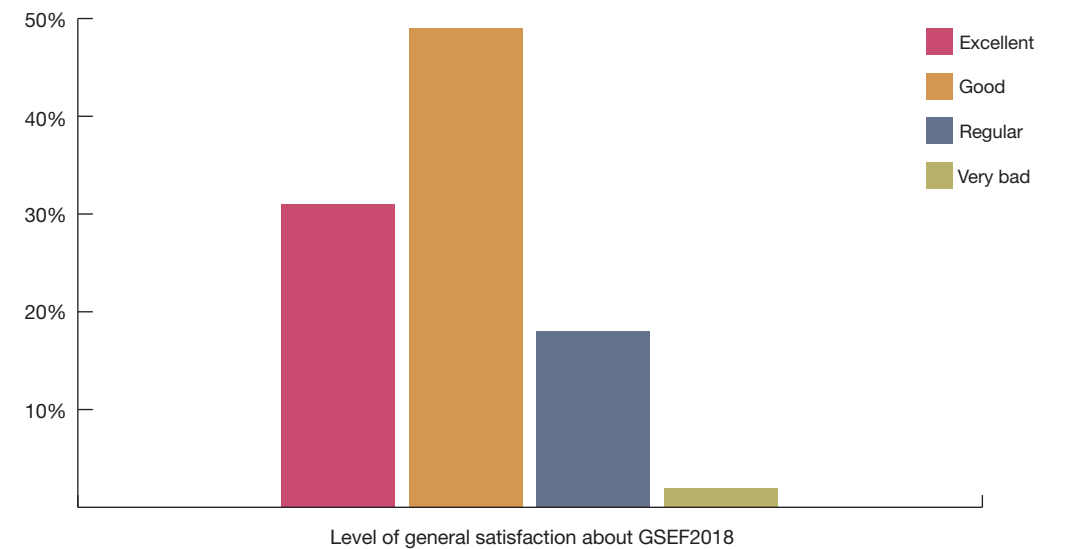
On October 2 the hashtag # GSEF2018 was trending topic in Bilbao at 15: 40.

On October 3, the hashtag # GSEF2018 was a trending topic in Bilbao at 13:25.

Evaluation

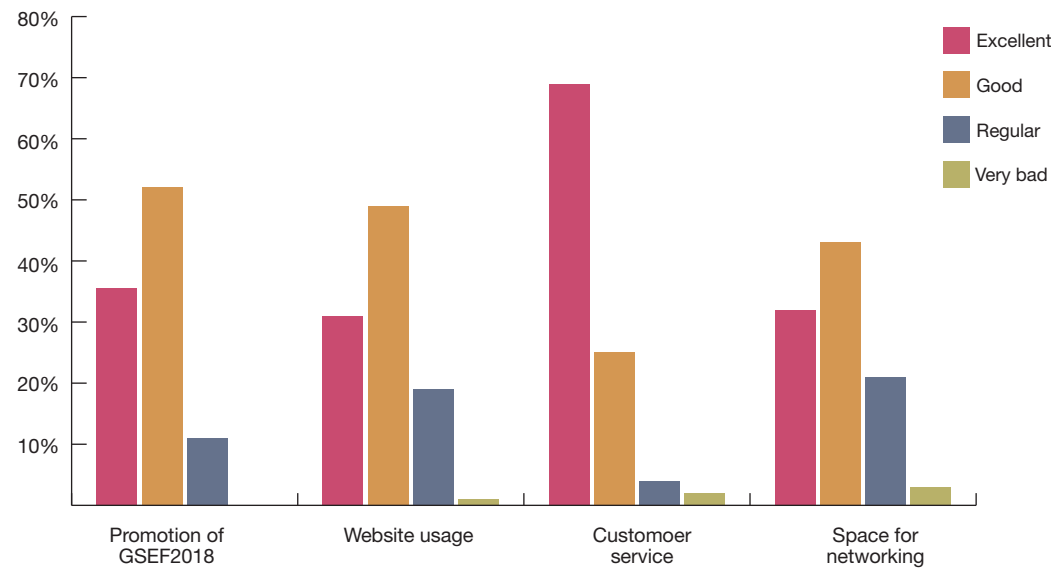
Once GSEF2018 was completed, an online evaluation questionnaire was sent to all the registered participants. The assessment of the people who have answered the questionnaire has been positive:

• General Evaluation •

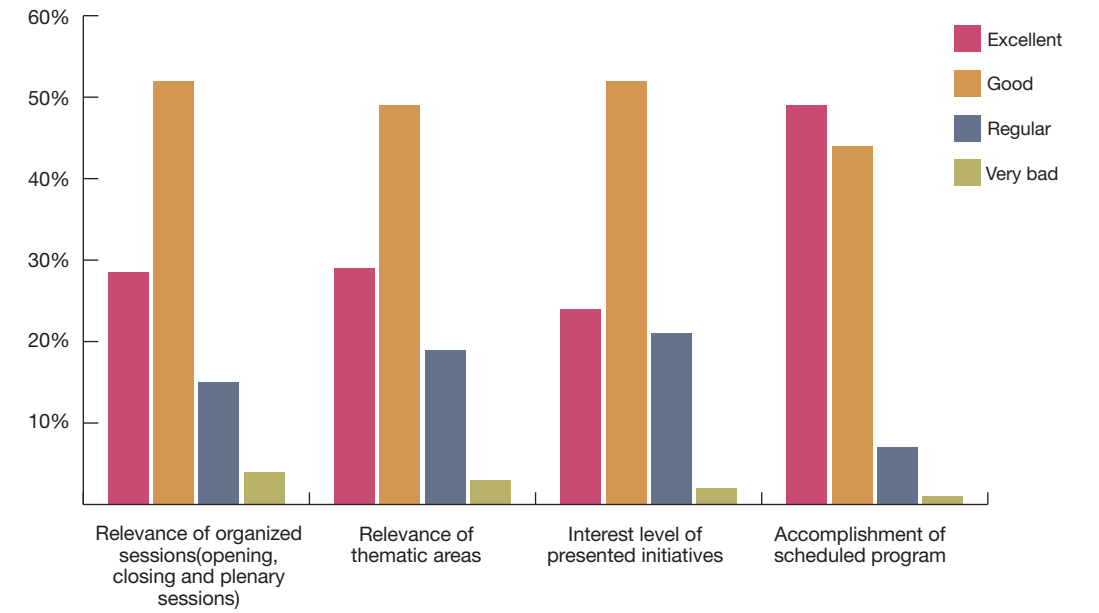


- 80% of the people who have answered the questionnaire evaluate GSEF2018 from good to excellent.
- The tangible results of having participated in GSEF2018 have been the opportunity to create new contacts and the identification and disclosure of good practices.
- More than 70% of those who answered the questionnaire show a high satisfaction with the care and hospitality received.
- More time for discussion and more time for exchanges and bilateral meetings would be appreciated.
- For future editions it is better to have possibilities to organize events and activities related to the forum throughout the city that hosts the forum.
- It is considered that GSEF is an initiative which is being already consolidated at the international level:

• General Information •



• Program •



4.

SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY SESSIONS



GSEF2018 Inauguration ceremony

With main topic of the GSEF2018 “Social Economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development”, the highest representatives of the Social Economy of Europe, Spain and the Basque Country along with the Co-Chairs of GSEF and the Mayor of Bilbao intervened in the opening session where Mayors Podium was also held with the local authorities of the cities present in the Forum expressing their advocacy for Social Economy.

Mayors Podium

One of the most important moments of the Forum was Mayors Podium, where the representatives of the regions and cities were invited to share their commitments and support for the promotion of the social economy in their respective local governments, including the mayors of the host cities, Mr. Won Soon Park, Mayor of Seoul, and Mr. Juan Mari Aburto, Mayor of Bilbao.

List of the Mayors Podium

- Mr. Robert BEAUDRY Vice Mayor of Montreal, Canada
- Ms. Maude MARQUS-BISSONNETTE Councilor for Social Development, Social and Solidarity Economy, Gatineau, Canada
- Mr. Óscar SANTOS Mayor of Praia, Cape Verde
- Mr. Erkki PARKKINEN Mayor of Salla, Finland
- Mr. Jean-Marc LESPAGE Mayor of Tarnos, France
- Ms. Dounia BESSON Vice Mayor of Lyon, France
- Ms. Emmanuelle ROUSSET Vice Mayor of Rennes, France
- Ms. Haye GHISLAINE Vice Mayor of Biarritz, France
- Ms. Christiane BOUCHART Vice President for Sustainable Development of Lille, France
- Mr. Jean-Claude PRADELS Elected Deputy Representative for Social and Solidarity Economy from the Merignac Gironde region, France
- Mr. Patrick VASSALLO Elected Regional Councilor from the St. Denis et Plaine Commune, France
- Mr. Othmane KHAOUA Councilor of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Solidarity, Sceaux, France
- Mr. Matthieu THEURIER Vice President for Social and Solidarity Economy from the Metropole Region of Rennes, France
- Ms. Jeanne BARSEGHIAN Elected Regional Councilor from the Metropole Strassbourg, France
- Mr. Pascal DUFORESTEL Elected Regional Councilor from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, France
- Mr. Marc GODEFROY Elected Representative for Social and Solidarity Economy from the European Metropole Lille, France
- Ms. Marie MEUNIER Elected Council Member for Social and Solidarity Economy from the Occitanie Region, France
- Ms. Patricia ANDRIOT Elected Representative from the Municipal Council of Auberive Vingeanne et Montsaugonnais, France
- Mr. Cheolmo SEO Mayor of Hwasung, Korea
- Mr. Seok Jin MUN Mayor of Seodaemungu, Korea

Ms. Soo Young KIM Mayor of Yangcheongu, Korea
 Mr. Yang Ho SEO Mayor of Junggu, Korea
 Mr. Hyunil CHAI Mayor of Yeongdeungpogu, Korea
 Mr. GyoungGee LIU Mayor of Jungnanggu, Korea
 Mr. Young Jong KIM Mayor of Jongnogu, Korea
 Mr. Won O CHONG Mayor of Seongdonggu, Korea
 Mr. Harimakan KEITA Vice Mayor of Bamako, Mali
 Ms. Maria UBARRETXENA Mayor of Mondragon, Spain
 Mr. Luís Intxauspe AROZAMENA Mayor of Hernani, Spain
 Mr. Jordi TORT REINA Vice Mayor of Barcelona, Spain
 Mr. Jordi TORT REINA Vice Mayor of Gava, Spain
 Mr. Jaime GRANADOS MEJÍA Mayor of Paccho, Peru
 Mr. Chih-Ming CHEN Deputy General Manager of Taipei, Taiwan
 Mr. Ronald Nsubuga BALIMWEZO Mayor of Nakawa, Kampala, Uganda
 Mr. J. Philip Thompson Vice Mayor of New York, USA

2. Social Economy in the age of cities
3. Commitment to Social Economy: Approach from different continents
4. The cooperative city
5. Towards sustainable and inclusive development through Social Economy

Summaries of the debates and the arguments shared are featured below:

Plenary Session 1

Promoting the Social Economy: A fad or a real commitment?

The first Plenary Session held the interventions of the Mayors of Bilbao and Seoul, Mr. Juan Mari Aburto and Mr. Won Soon Park, along with the Delegate of Economy and Finance of Madrid, Mr. Jorge García Castaño, and the First Deputy mayor of Barcelona, Gerardo Pisarello, who together with the High Commissioner for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation of France, Mr. Christophe Itier, and the President of MONDRAGON Corporation, Iñigo Ucin, discussed and shared what it means to them, at a political level, to support the Social Economy as one of the driving forces behind the social and economic development of their cities.

Regarding what they consider the most important when promoting Social Economy in their cities and environments, the main ideas that were shared are the following:

- Positioning for SE has to do with understanding that the local and urban development model needs new keys capable of tackling the new challenges cities have to face like those concerning sustainability and job opportunities.
- The capacity that SE has in supporting and aligning with local development policies when common objectives are shared. The actors agreed in having to point out that what is more important to take into account is how persons are at the center of SE.
- In the case of cooperative enterprises, besides the value of putting people first as mentioned before, one of their main advantages lies in the willingness and the challenge that it represents of staying competitive so that they are able to generate wealth to secure their future.

In terms of what kind of commitment to promote the Social Economy is there in reality, all speakers answered that personal commitment would continue as they believe in the



Mayors Podium during the opening session

As mentioned before, the Forum was organized within five plenary sessions and a total of 42 workshops.

These five plenary sessions covered the following issues:

1. Promoting the Social Economy: A fad or a real commitment?



Plenary Session 1 panelists

possibilities that SE entities contribute to local development and to the construction of more inclusive and more sustainable cities in the future.

In the case of the Basque Country, and given their cooperative background, its representatives advocated a continuation in what they are already doing while also improving and deepening the interaction and collaboration channels between the administration and the SE entities.

At the national policy level, like in the case of France, the work and commitment mentioned by the Government representative aimed especially to achieve a global change and not to let the promotion of SE become parallel but fully integrated into the center of the economy. It is necessary to achieve the forms and values of SE expand to the other companies to make sure these companies integrate social and environmental impact in their businesses.

Personal commitment is also expressed at the political level by trying to expand the values behind SE as the mayors or local governments. This means making cities cohesive through agreed social policies. In the case of Bilbao this is shown in their commitment “city of values”.

They all agreed on pointing out that the world is facing a digital revolution in a knowledge society with the emergence of new forms of exclusion. In order to avoid this, SE can be a great partner whom to cooperate with to properly move the advances of society more rapidly.

Finally, after discussing the most concrete actions to promote SE in cities, the proposals mentioned were:

- Claiming the Res. Republica (Latin expression for ‘public affair’), regenerating policies and developing society from and from, with for the people.

- Reconstructing the social contract for a new balance. The SE plays a key role in it and there is also public-private collaboration needed.
- Providing stable financing frameworks.
- Financing and supporting growth in the moments when they scale up.
- Planning public investments where SE companies have a spot.
- Implementing innovative public procurement as a tool to boost the SE.

Plenary Session 2

Social Economy in the age of cities



In the second plenary session of the Forum, several political representatives of the cities took part: Ms. Christiane Bouchart, Vice-president at the Lille Métropole for Sustainable Development and President of RTES, Mr. Robert Beaudry, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development of the City of Montreal, together with those in charge of international entities of local development, Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG, Mr. Martin Van den Borre, Executive Director of C.I.T.I.E.S., Ms. Simel Esim, Head of the Cooperatives Unit of ILO and Ms. Lourdes Benería, an expert in urban planning and SE activist.

Cities and SE, and more specifically their links are the base of the birth of GSEF. Cities are the main characters in the global social and economic perspective of the 21st century. It is in cities where more population is gathered and where global challenges are more evident: fighting climate change, diversity management, optimization of basic resources, tackling inequality and poverty, etc.

The session was oriented toward showing Social Economy as a great partner for local governments when tackling the challenges mentioned above, an issues already identified and shared in the previous session. During this session, an overview of the global development over the last 25 years was discussed to see how much cities have been transformed and what kind of support has Social Economy provided. Despite the diversity of the speakers’ backgrounds, the vision shared was that SE entails a good partnership for both the cities and the politicians in charge of planning the local policies because:

- SE turns out to provide strong structures from the economic point of view and also generate benefits to the citizens due to the capacity of redistribution.



Plenary Session 2 panelists

- SE is innovative in the social sphere since they implement new ways. For example, SE is a pioneer in the implementation of projects linked to circular economy and new forms of economy within local development. They usually rely on short circuits, proximity savings, associate development pole.
- SE contributes to the democracy of the territories since the concern of the SE entities for the integration of democracy in their organizations is expanded not only to the persons inside the organizations and companies, but also to their stakeholders.
- SE has the capacity of integrating informal economy workers into a formal economy in less socially and economically developed environments.
- SE prioritizes the long term policy against short term and this benefits the city that needs stable structures.

Based on these findings, the sessions focused on the proposals of continuing advancement in boosting the SE. From there, some claims were shared to aim for enhancement of awareness of necessary measures to be done.

Cities face enormous challenges and the policies that are planned at different government levels have a direct impact on the city. However these should not be understood as mere executors of the global vision. The sum of economic pressures is out of the citizens' control, for example, the labor market. Economic restructuring has affected employment and wages, having an impact on inequality as well. Technological change, informalization of labor or precarious jobs, tensions due to the migration to Europe, are all issues that may lead to tensions in the cities which make governments feel obliged to tackle.

Due to the circumstances, cities have to be bolder in order to face risks. A new paradigm is needed, which can alleviate problems since cities have a great impact on their surroundings.

The shared reflections were the following:

- Trust is essential to build and agree on an operational model of the SE in the cities. Solidarity is not easy to build. It takes time not only to become and remain solid in spite of political changes, but to be put on the right path to aim for a bright future, with less speculation and more inclusion.
- It is a mistake to understand SE as a means of repair when everything has failed. SE is not a plaster but a tool to understand local economy in a different way from the one we see as of today. Instead of developing parallel or apart, Social Economy should be placed at the center of the economy.
- Cities and local governments must be prepared for cooperation. Through cooperation cities will be able to move forward in the implementation of policies that respond to the need of citizens.
- We must find new trajectories, models and partnerships for the provision of services. Among them, the economy of assistance, whose main challenge is how to use it on a larger scale, can serve the purpose.
- Cities need new fiscal agreements that make the economy possible to move in another direction that leaves speculative practices aside. It needs to integrate migrants and simplify bureaucracy.
- We have to work at the community level but not using the same method for all the communities. We must generate a culture of trust and for that we need to listen to all community actors.

We must work in a network between cities and territories that are committed to SE, by extending the work that GSEF has started and by maintaining and expanding the pilot programs that have been launched by the European Union.

Plenary Session 3

Commitment to Social Economy: Approach from different continents



The third plenary session aimed to present the orientation of different policies in favor of the development of the Social Economy at the international level in a dialogue between speakers from different continents.

The panelists were: Ms. María Jesús San José Minister of Work and Justice from the Basque Country, Mr. Slawomir Tokarski Director of Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing from the European Union, Ms. Pauline Eyebe Effa General Director of PFAC from Africa, Mr. Manoj Kumar Teotia Assistant Professor of the Research Center in rural and industrial development of Chandigarh from Asia, Mr. Leandro Morais Correspondent of the IberoAmerican Observatory of Labor and Social Economy and Professor Doctor of the UNESP Araraquera from Latin America, Mr. Ariel Guarco President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) with the moderator, Mrs. Nancy Neemtán, Founder of the Chantier l'Économie sociale.

General issues that were shared:

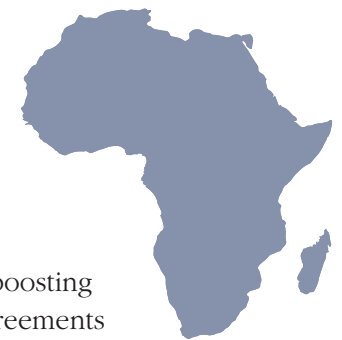
- The context of the SE is heterogeneous in different realities presented, however similar values are shared concerning the responsibility of social and environmental solidarity and their implications in the territories, which allow us to respond to the need of economic development and methods which are more sustainable than even in various realities.
- Insisting on considering the SE as a surpassing formula for local social and economic development, above aid systems or charity is essential. On the other hand, it is important to overcome the old vision still maintained in some places where the SE is a non-competitive economy. SE has to evolve toward a type of business with economic as well as social and environmental success.
- The reality in some environments is different. The Basque case shows different context of creation of employment and the ability to cope with crises. Moreover the impact of the MONDRAGON Corporation through its innovations and its success confirms that SE is

superior to other formulas.

- There are experiences with success in all the continents related to the financing, creation of new business in emerging activities, creation of inclusive local markets, establishment of municipality networks. All these in various scale and realities, but with positive effects.
- The different realities of the SE contribute to the transformation of the economy which both the territories and the actors need.
- From International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)'s perspective, non-stop dialogue with policymakers enabled them to see that the SE is a different business development model. SE entities should not be treated like capitalist companies. It is necessary to raise awareness about the influence that an inadequate framework can cause in the society.

At the continental level, the following observations were highlighted:

Africa: Even though Social Economy does not have a strong presence, it shows great potential in an environment where dynamic youth are bringing hope for change despite their precarious surroundings. This has been a key for the transformation of informal economy jobs into formal ones and to integrate and give visibility to women as important actor.



In some countries, like in Cameroon, there is commitment to boosting the SE. A network of mayors has been created where many agreements have been established to provide funds for the investment and support to the SE. The present solidarity bases are being restored and cooperative values are being reaffirmed inside the communities.

One of the main challenges the SE in Africa is facing is to understand what the SE is and what it is not. In some countries, there is necessity of restructuring its development in territorial level; the accumulation of those experiences can lead other territories to follow the same path. Niche markets to promote the SE exist like in the construction field for example. It is necessary to provide support mechanism for decision making process and strengthen the capacity of those who make decisions. We also need to work on the training and educational aspects as well.

Latin America: In Latin American countries, the diverse interpretation of the SE gives an answer to the concrete challenges of each country. In Colombia for example, they are advocating for cooperative development within the Peace agreements with the objective of facilitating the reinsertion of ex-combatants; the self-management and organization in communities is giving an answer to the current situation in Venezuela; in Argentina, the SSE had a role in the policies of business recovery; in Mexico, it has been useful for the integration of indigenous population; in Ecuador, the SE has been adopted at the national level as Popular and Solidarity Economy within the Constitution; in Brazil agricultural cooperatives have been developed among other SE foundations and social entities.



Plenary Session 3 panelists

In many sectors, the SE is still seen as a non-competitive economy which requires support. According to the ICA, the SE in Latin America is seen as a carrier of democratic values and as a model of generation and distribution of wealth different to the capitalist economic model. Instead of a romantic vision, it is a conviction that non-subordinating to capital competitive companies are necessary because they are fulfilling a double function as viable and efficient economic agents with social sensitivity in the common market. Cooperatives are transformed companies with social responsibility.

Challenges to tackle: it is important to strengthen the state's policies. Regarding the adopted neoliberal policies, cities that are now legislating in favor of the SE are the ones that are better equipped to mitigate the inequalities that these neoliberal policies generate.

It is necessary to support the creation of a solidarity and an ecosystem of entrepreneurship. We have to also enhance cooperative networks. There are some examples of big cooperatives in size but they do not have a full connection with the territory. Thus it is necessary to create these networks.

Finally, another challenge is linked to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all the United Nations Member States. The SE can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs if the right SE methodologies are implemented.

Successful experiences at local level were presented, and at the same time movements with great influence such as the creation of the cooperative networks of municipalities in Argentina. Similar progress has been made also in other countries where municipalities introduce new policies very much in line with the values of democracy and commitment to the territory. With these influence and movements the Social Economy is getting more involved in the public policies for social and community development, education, environment protection and preservation, health, and creation of social currencies.



Asia/India: As second most populated country after China, India has a huge informal economy volume, in some areas with more than 90%. On the other hand, progressive changes from agriculture economy to non-agriculture economy have brought new demands and needs in the cities. Moreover the social caste system exists in the country. All these mentioned circumstances and situation become opportunity for the Social Economy development. Although no clear policies exist, companies have tendency of taking social responsibility due to the British influence. 2% of the business profits must be addressed to social objectives.

Some territories like in the case of Chandigarth have SME (Small and Medium sized Enterprise) Law to promote the SE and there are also credits to finance companies in different sectors. One of the main challenges is the training since most population is undereducated, which results in prolonging of informal economy. Still lots of things need to be done. A very large group of social enterprises is identified, which aims to help close to 2 million through an online program.

The Indian political system is complicated, multiparty and decentralized in states and territories which make it difficult to agree on global political frameworks. We must promote reconciliation and consensus among the states to address the main problems: poverty, housing, etc.



Europe: In the opinion of the panelist from the European Union, many forms of SE coexist. So it is difficult to make a common definition and perhaps it is also not convenient to do so in order to maintain a more open spirit. What is shared as a general principle is that it is an economy from the people to the people. The axes from which the work is being carried out at the community level have to do with financial instruments and the promotion of social clusters so that they reinforce

the SE while at the same time they foster the creation of employment for those who show greater difficulty of access into the labor market. SE also plays an important role in motivating young talent. In line with this idea there will be an award for youth who present projects by providing solutions to the challenges of our society based on SE initiatives and approaches. The ultimate goal of this award, besides attracting young people to the SE, is to respond to the challenge of social transformation: having these practices extended to the whole society.

This challenge was also pointed out by the panelist from the Basque Country, the host region of this GSEF2018. The political leader of the Basque Government, advocates to work decisively on the quantitative and qualitative visualization of the SE, considering this as one of the great challenges to achieve greater commitment and creation of support systems for the SE. In this regard, one priority area of work was highlighted: involving youth, for which work is being carried out jointly with the educational sector, at all levels, including the university level, with the incorporation of specific training of SE into the curricular design.



Another challenge identified within the European context is the ability of SE companies to be competitive and financially autonomous; being profitable and attracting young talent. In this case MONDRAGON was taken as an example and always has considered having financial autonomy essential for its development.

Finally, from the European and Basque point of view, public-private collaboration is considered to be one of the keys to success in the extension of the SE, considering that the public side has to create support networks and infrastructures that can allow creating and developing SE projects aimed at responding to different challenges.

Plenary Session 4

Cooperative City



The fourth plenary session had the objective of sharing different local initiatives of SE promotions and the keys of their success.

The cities and entities that took part were: New York with its Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, Mr. J. Phillip Thompson; Seoul with Ms. Eunae Lee, CEO of the Seoul Social Economy Center; Liverpool represented by Ms. Lynn Collins, Chair of the Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board; Taipei represented by Ms. Yao Ching Yu, Executive Secretary of the International Affairs Advisory Council; RIPESS Intercontinental with Mr. Jason Nardi, General Coordinator, and finally, Mr. Thierry Jeantet, President of SSE International Forum (IFSSE).

The first question that was raised for the debate on the part of the moderator was directed to know the different experiences lived around how to go from the declarations to the facts, how to achieve materialize the projects and make cities more cooperative.

The answers provided an interesting vision since panelists came from different cultural, social and economic environments. However, they all had in common the desire of getting their cities to become more inclusive, equal and active.

In a prosperous city like New York, where great differences persist and where poverty hits the same collectives, the effort from the current local government is aimed at addressing the legacy received by promoting creation and collaboration with cooperatives. They allocate increasingly larger budgets, while working in the form of joint ventures with other cities such as Montreal, to get people to own their businesses and progressively achieve a more equal city. Another objective that has been marked is to increase the public procurement of the City Council to companies of SE. This last objective has a great potential of effectiveness, given the huge volume of purchase of the town hall.

From the experience of Seoul, the main objective is the creation of employment, for which on the one hand there are regulations on public procurement and civil servant training to overcome former labor practices. On the other hand, co-production is encouraged, trying to foster cooperation between citizens which would finally lead to the creation of new production structures. Reviewing what sectors they could act on, they are currently working on how to involve the citizens through the debate on budgets.

In Taipei they are fostering technology and for this they have created the Smart City Office,

where they want to bring the synergy between the political actors and the citizen to improve services and introduce innovative solutions. They have also set up a gender policy office.

In Liverpool they focus on a series of factors that stimulate the progress towards a more cooperative city. One of them was to break social barriers and for that they consider necessary to influence housing policies, education, universities. They have an advisory council where 20 people work on these policies because Liverpool wants to ensure that the voices are heard before defining the policies. They are also working on inclusion issue by prioritizing jobs that have fair wages and social impacts. They have created a map of fair employment in order to encourage businesses to join the philosophy of the SE. Liverpool works to generate training opportunities for people at risk of exclusion and encourages public procurement models that promote social clauses.



Plenary Session 4 panelists

RIPESS points out acknowledging the common goods as an important aspect related to cities being more cooperative. In this line of argument, it was also pointed out the experience of the city of Bologna and its regulation on the collaboration between citizens and the administration for the care system and regeneration of urban commons. This regulation aims to rebuild and strengthen the social contract that unites citizens within a community, acting together at all levels. From there they allow initiatives aimed at managing spaces and buildings with a collective approach, with autonomy but in collaboration with the local government. The panelist from RIPESS also highlighted the experiences of involving citizens in decision-making process, and rethinking about the concept of cooperative cities so that citizens are able to participate in a more continuous manner and not only in electoral moments.



Participants at one of plenary sessions

Finally from SEE International Forum, the panelist pointed out that in 2017 the cities were recognized as indispensable partners of the SE, noting that in both cases in the background there are values of democracy, civic interest and the common good, and this is not coincidental, but that there is a growing convergence.

The second and last part of the session focused on answering the question on how to respond from the public side and how to create a shared vision, taking into account the great diversity of individual needs that arise at the same time.

Considering different contexts that were present in the plenary session, the proposals were diverse and at the same time enriching:

For New York City, the perception is that a large dose of civic education is needed. The construction of a common agenda cannot be addressed without previously treating the clash between different groups. They need to boost governance, justice and democracy.

In Seoul, it is considered important to engage more with cooperatives in the city and to open out the city's structure so that those cooperatives can stay permanently. The city needs to create common agenda to collaborate with them together.

In the case of Liverpool, it is vital to have a common voice despite the diversity and heterogeneity of the various forms adopted by the SE, since without a common voice it is difficult to influence and be heard.

As for Taipei, the emphasis is placed on the need to listen to all voices, including those who are more disadvantaged. Taipei advocates small changes that can have exponential effects and also is aware that changing some internal structures of the local government has to be done first in order to initiate and implement innovations.

RIPES is supportive of the idea of working together to change the culture from focusing on the economic aspect towards a social approach, going from measuring the well-being just by numbers towards considering how many people live better and share the wealth together. It is necessary to include social and ecological impacts and decent work. An alliance is needed between self-organized citizens collectively and local governments who share this perspective. It is important to generate trans-local alliances to exchange, unite and foster the development of strategies of the SE.

Finally, the panelist from the SSE International Forum agreed that other ways of measuring the new civic effectiveness and human impact are needed. The importance of having tools for the exchange of experiences is emphasized in order to learn about success stories without forgetting the failures. The SSE International Forum created an Agora of projects and also supported trainings and territorial coaching programs to support the SE to be adopted in the city.

Plenary Session 5

Towards sustainable and inclusive development through Social Economy



The fifth and last plenary session had the objective of collecting experiences and advices as a conclusion of the main contribution of the Forum.

The following representatives participated in this session: Mr. Txomin García President of Laboral Kutxa and Vice-president of the National Union of Credit Cooperatives, Mr. Paul Ladd Director of UNRISD, Mr. Markku Markkula first Vice-President of the European Committee of Regions, Ms. Marguerite Mendell Director of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Mr. Franz Wolfmayr former president of EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities), Ms. Maude Marquis-Bissonnette Councilor for Social Economy of the Gatineau City Council in Canada, and Ms. Antonella Noya Head of Social Economy and Innovation Unit at the OECD.

The first part of the session focused on sharing the most outstanding aspects and reflections of the Forum of each participant. The contributions shared were the following:

- It is not enough to agree with the values of the SE. We must be activists. More commitment rather than awareness.
- There are two key aspects that must go together: cooperation and competitiveness. It requires great cooperation to have all the agents go together. It is important to demonstrate that the SE is not only a fairer model but it is also a sustainable model, this being the reason why it is necessary to be competitive and effective.
- We must insist on the strength of the community and the shared value to make social changes and undertake joint actions.
- Young people must be integrated into the SE movement and we should give them voice. Making GSEF as an intergenerational forum.
- It is essential to highlight the importance of the co-creation of policies between the agents of the SE and local authorities. Cities have competitive advantage because they have the ability of mobilizing resources and gathering more information at the territory level. Therefore the local policies can be more customized and personalized for each territory.
- It is imperative to examine the general aspects to see the details and understand the needs of citizens and consequently respond through projects.
- We must take advantage of public procurement, for its two sides of effect; to generate social insertion employment and provide public services.
- It is necessary to work in coordination among different governance levels in order to build the enabling ecosystem for the SE.
- It is difficult to work intersectorially and transversally with the current rigid structures. Barriers must be broken in order to innovate. How to institutionalize flexibility?
- It is essential to measure the social impact of the SE such as participation and commitment.
- A more systematic approach is needed: providing concrete measures, organizing forums to share, integrating more knowledge and research, etc. It is also crucial to analyze and learn from the unfruitful experiences.
- Remarking heterogeneity: what makes it difficult to have a single voice but at the same time enriches the debate and learning from the different forms of expression of the SE.
- SSE is also a “vision” of the city and it shows how the 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be reached.
- The Global Social Economy Forum has succeeded in mobilizing various international institutions despite its short history.

Final question of the session was: WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL ECONOMY? And the answers were:

- Dissemination. Society has to understand what cooperatives entail and their ability to tackle crisis. The idea is to demonstrate the capacity of distributing the wealth through solidarity mechanisms putting emphasis on the actual “distribution” aspect against redistribution, which only involves literal distribution through conventional ways only.
- Guaranteeing the continuity of the policies of promoting the SE. Political leadership



Plenary Session 5 panelists

linked to collective empowerment is needed. It is important to promote multilevel governance with collective empowerment in order to make the SE continuous and proliferant: governance also includes citizens.

- Leadership and consistency in politics. Leaders should convince politicians by presenting evidences of the impact of the SE so that the politicians have consistency in politics favorable to the SE.
- Governance. In the case of MONDRAGON, there has been constant attention to the issues of internal relations and management, as part of their evolving governance model.
- It is necessary to recognize that the real limitation of financing can imply. Generating economic profits guarantees the sustainability of future development of the SSE actors. MONDRAGON is an ecosystem based on generosity and intercooperation with financial instruments of mutual support.
- Continuing the promotion of knowledge exchange like in the case of GSEF network and this Forum.
- Involvement of the youth to promote intergenerational dialogue. Launching campaigns for the youth and integrating training content about the SE in their educational programs are recommended.
- More specific practical approaches. communities of practices, awards etc.
- Measuring the social impact and social value of the SE so that it becomes a recognition tool.
- It is necessary to support civil society and create partnerships, helping them to organize and supporting the development of the SE in the different contexts and countries.

Closing Session

The Bilbao Declaration and the Youth Declaration were announced at the closing ceremony.

The Bilbao declaration was prepared under the coordination of GSEF Secretariat during the months prior to the Forum while the text of the Youth declaration was prepared by a group of youth during the days of the Forum.

Finally, it was also announced that the Mexico City will be hosting the fifth edition of the GSEF in 2020. This decision was made during the GSEF General Assembly on the 2nd October during the GSEF2018.

Parallel to the closing of the Forum, the Gender Declaration was announced.



Closing ceremony with the Co-Chair of GSEF and Mayor of Bilbao

5.

SUMMARY OF THE INITIATIVES

The following pages contain an academic summary that accounts for the initiatives presented in the parallel workshops of the Forum. With the aim of presenting a synthesis of the shared contents, all of them have been put into order according to the themes and sub-themes, which could lead to an overall vision.



Participants at the networking space

Theme 1

Co-creation of public policies



The concept of “Co-creation” can be roughly defined as a model for the development and (re) design of public services in which different types of players participate including public and private actors (service users, indirect beneficiaries, etc.). These players transfer and share their experiences, capacities and resources (knowledge, information, etc.) to jointly improve processes (deliberative and decision-making) and public results (more effective, efficient and quality public services), and also to generate greater social value (integration and social cohesion).

Co-creation is also conceived as a model of social transformation and learning democratic values, since it helps strengthen the feeling of belonging, involvement and moral commitment with the community or with the groups where people are part of.

Collaboration strategies between local governments and social economy agents

The collaborations between public, private and community actors are changing and are developed in all stages of the projects, in order to:

- Identify the territory's needs
- Build shared solutions
- Truly involve the inhabitants of the area in question
- Manage projects on a shared basis
- Conduct a participatory evaluation

These collaborations can take different forms: participatory governance, co-construction of public policies, public-private-community associations and shared management. They allow greater benefits, such as training and empowering the neighborhood, while achieving greater ownership and sustainability of the project.

Nine initiatives from Europe, Asia and America have been presented related to the collaboration strategies between local governments and social economy actors. These initiatives have shown that the social economy, in collaboration with local administrations, is capable of creating stable jobs in insertion companies, labor communities and cooperatives in

various sectors. It has also shown how active public policies of local character are an effective instrument in the integration of groups at risk or in a situation of social exclusion, acting from a dual perspective (combining social and economic provision). And finally, the impact that co-working spaces are having on local communities in fostering social entrepreneurship has been demonstrated.

Likewise, the need to promote greater level of communication and interlocution between social economy enterprises with innovative and emerging opportunities sectors (circular economy, climate change, ICT, etc.) was confirmed:



Session on ‘Experience of alliances between institutions’

Public procurement and social clauses

Public procurement plays a very important role in the economy. In the European Union, public administrations spend more than a trillion Euros on procuring goods and services, representing (according to different studies) between 12% and 15% of the Gross Domestic Product, approximately 2000 Euros per inhabitant per year (Lesmes, 2006).

However, public procurement is still largely based on technical and economic criteria, not sufficiently taking into account other, more important ethical, social and solidarity principles.

Three initiatives from France, Ecuador and the United Kingdom were presented in which three fundamental aspects were highlighted: this type of project is characterized by promoting the creation of spaces for consultation between public and private agents looking for their

collaboration, who are oriented towards raising awareness among local authorities and civil servants; highlighting the benefit of investing in local value chains and the positive economic impact derived from it; and finally it has been found that they pursue involvement and political and institutional leadership at the highest level.

Social Economy in public policies

The progressive integration of the Social Economy in numerous public policies has led to the recognition of this sector's positive role in achieving objectives of social interest. The ability to generate collective benefits has not been ignored by governments at different levels (local, regional, state and supra-state). Indeed it has been the main rationale that has legitimized the involvement of Social Economy enterprises and institutions in a growing number of policies in different contexts and co-construction of public policies specifically aimed at promoting this social sector.

Twelve initiatives have been presented from European cities: Bilbao, Vitoria, Barcelona, Madrid, Lille, Örebro; and from North America: Montreal, from Asia: Seoul; from Latin America: Maricá and from Africa: Dakar, where the relevance of social economy in addressing challenges under diverse circumstances such as youth unemployment has been emphasized. Therefore the social economy should be promoted with greater determination, being advisable to change the scale and focus the economy on people, specifically in youth as a driver of social change, Extra effort should be paid in countries with a large young population such as Africa.

Finally, the importance of fostering governance based on joint cooperation between the administration and civil society and changing the way of working as a municipality was highlighted, from a subsidiary approach to the partnership models, taking into account the need to ensure sufficient and stable funding.

The Social Economy in the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations recognizes the important role that cooperatives, companies and entities of the Social Economy play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The experts also consider that the Social Economy contributes to the achievement of the SDGs, especially in the objectives related to inclusive and sustainable growth, full employment or decent work for all people and inclusive industrialization and innovation. It is the reason why the entities of the SE can become a key agent in the achievement of the SDGs.

GSEF2018 has shown the opportunities offered by Social Economy to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. There has been a special interest in this subject and 4 workshops have been organized, and 3 of them have been organized by international entities committed to these objectives: UNRISD, RIPESS, and UCLG. They tried to show the focus and operation



Participant asking a question in a thematic session of theme 1

of their international activities aimed at promoting compliance with the SDGs. Through the initiatives that are being developed in different cities: Seoul, Montreal, Kuala Lumpur, Bamako and Granada, who share the need to work through international networks and alliances that allow extending successful experiences from territorial contexts to international contexts. Concrete cases that combined local projects with the fulfillment of some of the SDGs, were demonstrated such as SDG 12: Guarantee sustainable consumption and production modalities. In this line SE is proved to be a great partner when it comes to advancing in local policies linked to the circular economy.

Four initiatives were presented from Guatemala, India, Spain and the Netherlands, where the discussions were on heterogeneous experiences with various perspectives to achieve the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development: from the perspective of inclusive and sustainable territorial development in order to contribute to the creation of jobs and family income, natural environment regeneration and food sovereignty.

In this same line, it was proved that it is necessary to boost more initiatives to a great extent for the disability issues, to fund projects in the Global South and it is important to foster cooperatives focusing on the commitment towards health and sustainability with the objective of contributing to a society with best level of health and well-being of citizens.

Theme 2

The contribution of the Social Economy to the transformation of the territory



The territory, understood in a broad sense, is the main actor par excellence of inclusive and sustainable development. The meaning of territory is not only limited to a geographical area, but a set of agents, possibilities, potentials, a space with a cultural, historical, social economic and common environmental trajectory, from which a specific reality and a determined endogenous development potentials originate. In that territory there are socio-economic factors and characteristics that give its identity and that can promote an inclusive and sustainable development process.

Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation

In recent years it is considered that the economic development and well-being of society go through the consolidation process of hybrid organizations which combine social and commercial practices indistinctly. The search for disruptive processes to deal with the growing social problems has been accompanied by the recovery of collaborative work models, self-management and co-creation that incorporate the vision and contributions of the various actors in society. Social entrepreneurship represents one of the processes through which social innovation is developed, under business models that guarantee its economic and social sustainability.

In GSEF2018, a workshop has been organized with this theme by OECD and 3 more workshops where 10 initiatives shared around entrepreneurship and social innovation from Spain, Central America, France and Belgium. All these sessions highlighted how there is a causal relationship between social innovation and social community development, stressing that successful cases of public-private collaboration with a long history are characterized remarkably by social and community service dimension. Meanwhile special attention should be paid to the university as promoter of the social economy.

From the perspective of supporting collective groups, it was highlighted to build the partnership to support the entrepreneurship of immigrants, and the assistance for the entrepreneurship of women in vulnerable situations and the revolving credit funds through which people from rural areas have access to financial services as innovative and effective social entrepreneurship formulas.



Session organized by OECD

All the presented initiatives recommended further deepening of financing formulas (community networks, cooperatives, solidarity economy and collective financing) and putting attention to the relevance of public and private co-financing.

Socially responsible territories

According to the European Economic and Social Committee, “a territory can be defined as socially responsible when it focuses its own development towards sustainability issues; that is, when it integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions into its own development. A territory that manages to integrate social and environmental considerations into its economic decisions; share a model of values and a participatory method in decision-making processes; favour good practices and permanent interaction among stakeholders, in order to encourage innovation and competitiveness, can be considered as a socially responsible territory.”

Current economic and technological development creates an enrichment while in many territories unequal growth took place causing a risk of social and labor exclusion and environmental degradation. Creating socially responsible territories involves developing policies which can respond to the territory’s specific problems, seeking the collaboration of the agents involved and taking into account not only the economic value but also the social, ethical and cultural wealth values.

Four initiatives on the Social Economy from France, Mexico, Belgium and Spain were presented. The solutions provided, such as the label or consortiums of social and sustainable enterprises, are consolidated as tools to support responsible consumption and production and actors and agents are evaluated and they are capable of promoting management and modification of consumption pattern and evaluation of the impact in the territory from the human and economic perspectives.

Second-hand markets, revitalization of abandoned spaces through social organization and promotion of green and ecological entrepreneurship intervening in the territory, are opportunities for the creation of social enterprises, community promotion and creation of solid commitments by the public administration towards sustainable consumption and job creation, focusing on the territory and its potentials.

Social Innovation Ecosystem

Social innovation ecosystems are environments where multiple initiatives are being carried out to stimulate social and competitiveness processes and productive development and innovation in different territories.

Currently, different actors involved in the social innovation ecosystem develop a growing interest in determining variables measuring different initiatives and their potential social impact, in order to be able to back those who have a greater capacity to scale up and cause a deep-rooted change.

Eight initiatives from Europe, North America, Africa and Asia were presented. They witnessed that the functioning of ecosystems is based on collective work, strength, and the will to put into action based on citizen mobilization to build a broad and diversified ecosystem.

Shown in the initiative from Europe, there is a need to create a favorable environment for the creation of an innovative ecosystem with a social and technological orientation involving different networks, actors and collaborators. Panelists from Asia indicated that more emphasis is placed on the need to modify support policies to improve competitiveness. There is also a lack of assistance aimed at the growth of cooperatives. Finally, in Africa, the usefulness of the social economy as a means to empower, promote entrepreneurship and achieve a more sustainable economy in conflict areas (i.e. Tanzanian refugee camps) is evident.

SE and citizenship in cooperation: transformation binominal

Social Economy organizations as a whole make up the baseline “scaffolding” in the social construction of civic identity and in the daily exercise of citizen participation. They contribute to extending general welfare through participative practice of individual, associative and collective subjects. They provide density to the social fabric and favor the integration of people and groups.

Research on the social economy coincides in pointing out the need to preserve the independence of organizations and reinforce their social and participatory aspect in the development of a more comprehensive community life. At present, access to the scope of public decisions by citizens requires the mediation of social organizations that assume strategies aimed at promoting the activation and transformation of so-called social capital into political capital.

Four initiatives shared that different degrees of impact have been witnessed, such as the experiment from the social economy leap in the city of Seoul, leading to a new social contract; the case of management difficulties was found in Nepal due to budget limitations and deficits in transport and storage; in Cameroon, a transparent management model enabled the implementation of initiatives promoted by women for the benefits of their families; in Madrid initiatives of social and solidarity economy in the sectors of recycling, food, mobility, care and energy are consolidated as an engine of urban transformation in neighborhoods, which create jobs of proximity and quality promoting the other economy model of the city.

SE and its contribution to post-conflict processes

The post-conflict era means thinking, planning and executing actions when the conflict is over. With this vision, in the conflict and post-conflict territories, multiple factors and players require and demand integrated and coordinated solutions, making the process to reach a post-conflict era and the long-awaited peace becomes more complex and challenging.

Considering poverty and inequality that usually underlie conflict situations, organizations and civil society must manage economic initiatives, understand adequately the problems and propose solutions of learning and using new skills and knowledge. The role of Social Economy institutions, NGOs and the third sector is a bonding agent in social life, since after a conflict, society needs a network of institutions to bring together and bond citizens together and bring them closer to social life.

One of the three initiatives showed the results of a comparative study on countries which had to face post-conflict situations and opted for the Social Economy. Based on this comparative study, 2 workshops about Columbia experience were held about the project of collaboration with the European Union to promote cooperative development in the Latin American country. The comparative study emphasized how, despite starting from different and heterogeneous origins and characteristics of the conflicts, it is clear that these initiatives should be carried out with an approach incorporating a triple perspective:

- Local initiatives that reflect the involvement and participation of the community as well as in the construction of capacities as key aspects to develop in these processes
- Thematic areas in the sense of broadly and comprehensively considering the different areas of the community (regional development, education, health, employment, etc.)
- Systemic and oriented to change attitudes, values and policies

It also refers to addressing an innovative change in the way of thinking and organizing

(participatory governance), developing a common language among different agents involved and assessing the impact of these initiatives not only from an economic perspective but also considering the stories and the experiences of process.

MONDRAGON story



Mayor of Mondragon at the Mayors Podium

MONDRAGON is one of the most emblematic and long-lived practical experiences in the world of Cooperativism and Social Economy, comparing its various modalities and sectors. MONDRAGON has become the paradigm of industrial development in Spain thanks to an unconventional formula: cooperative worker ownership. MONDRAGON cooperative movement, which always had the main purpose of a fairer and more solidarity-focused enterprise based on respect for the freedom, dignity and development of the individual and the community, is today an international benchmark of the Social Economy. MONDRAGON shared its experience with the cities and agents that took part in the Forum through this special workshop. The initial aspirations of transforming the structure of the capitalist enterprise were aiming at transforming society through the promotion of experiences of self-management and community self-government.

It was mentioned how some of the challenges brought reflections on the financial soundness in terms of profitability and returns in an increasingly competitive scenario, and its governance



Presentation of Mondragon University

model, which has tendency to be a bit slow in decision-making and true transforming vocation of the cooperative movement can be linked in these moments to a certain conservatism.

Theme 3

Challenges for the growth of Social Economy institutions



Social Economy institutions face important challenges related to their capacity for growth. This sub-theme focuses on discussing and sharing both the internal and external factors that favour and inhibit Social Economy institutions growth. The European Commission indicated that Social Economy enterprises show great potential for growth due to the increase in “the demand for social innovation and the increase in new technologies and collaboration

platforms”. However, the Commission highlights that these enterprises still have difficulties in obtaining funding and support, especially due to the “lack of recognition and understanding of their economic potential and insufficient exploitation of new technologies” (Commission Communication/ Leaders of tomorrow’s Europe: Initiative on emerging and expanding enterprises”, 22.11.2016). At the Forum this European vision of the challenges for the growth of SE entities was shared with other regional perspectives that the interaction between different realities could provide a shared vision of the common challenges that must be overcome in order to promote the growth of the social economy.

Experiences of alliances between social economy institutions

The plural and multiform characters of the social economy require the presence of strong representative organizations from different groups as well as integrated organizations. The identity and the common interests of the Social Economy raise the need and convenience of unconditional efforts of associative structuring of the whole social economy, both nationally and internationally. The more visible and powerful the collective image is projected by the SE, the more possibilities for development and effective action each of the groups of agent will have. In this sub-theme, the aim is to share experiences of alliances among Social Economy institutions that focus on consolidating activities and generating their greater visibility, both locally and at the level of interaction with policy makers.

Seven initiatives from Yaoundé, Santo Domingo, New York, Bilbao, Buenos Aires, Rennes and Liverpool were presented about alliances among social economy entities that are in the line of consolidating activities and generating greater visibility of them, both locally and at the level of interaction with policy makers. Diverse origins nevertheless share a common understanding that they are alliances of proximity, after the pursuit of diverse objectives, to address inequalities from a systemic approach. Others seek to increase the commitment of the administrations with the sustainable public purchase, and their implication in the municipal public policies in insertion projects. It is also relevant to mention the need to find investment formulas more affordable and flexible than those of the market in order to promote the Social Economy in projects that do not necessarily have a financial return. But as social investment and the alliances between entities of the Social Economy are absolutely necessary.

All the initiatives shared challenges to establish a network of alliances and governance with other entities and pointed out that in addition to the alliances, the participation from the society is also essential.

Generation of funds and other tools for the creation and support of social economy initiatives

There are needs to analyze which financial instruments are the most appropriate to facilitate the fund distribution at all levels, in order to establish a global financial ecosystem and allow the development and growth of social economy enterprises and to provide easy access to the information about the financing possibilities. This topic was the central element of the



Participants in a thematic session of theme 3

initiatives presented under this sub-theme.

Eight initiatives from Korea, Canada, France, USA, Ivory Coast and Basque Country, Spain were presented in two workshops. They all highlighted the importance of providing public-private funds for social economy enterprises (investor clubs in France) which can generate capital for the promotion of shared ownership (cooperatives, business communities), through tools such as endorsement. These tools bring social economy enterprises trust and credibility, tailor-made solutions, and increase in risk limits and bargaining power with financial institutions. They also confirmed the relevance of agreements such as European Investment Fund which guarantees loans so that no viable project will run out of funding.

INAISE, the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy, has also organized within the GSEF2018 a thematic workshop on financing where several questions were addressed: is social finance sufficient to allow the change of scale when it comes to the social economy enterprises? It is essential to diversify the financing of social economy enterprises from traditional financing channels to new and more innovative channels thanks to the awareness that they need adapted tools. In this line, steps for strategic planning are considered to create responsible citizen awareness and capability of recognizing the social value of financial support to the SE. The steps will virtually promote an increase in solidarity savings and the growth of ethical banking.

Monetization of the social value of organizations. An interest group-based approach

“Social Economy enterprises have capacity to generate wealth which is not confined to financial capital but embraces also and mainly social capital”, states the White Paper drawn up by the Social Economy Europe, the reason why the European Commission wants to measure the impact of social enterprises and expects this measurement to yield positive results in terms of investment and access to funding.

However, the Social Economy, in addition to taking advantage of the fair wind provided by this desire of the European institutions, must also follow its path and tackle the measurement of its social value from an inclusive approach, such as taking into account its stakeholders. From the relationship and impact generated by the Social Economy arises an interesting field of work monetize the social value of Social Economy institutions, which then addresses, from the quantitative measurement, the social impact of the activities.

Four presented initiatives from Canada, Spain and Italy provided the recommendations. It is important to involve stakeholders from the beginning of the evaluation processes as well as the convenience of adapting messages and communication channels to the needs raised by each stakeholder.

These are experiences of bringing stakeholders to get involved and to participate in the evaluation. They showed improvement in the management of multi stakeholder governance, which also was proved to be useful to build strategy and actions in the construction and improvement of the relationship with their stakeholders, due to the positive contribution of this approach. These processes also allow the increase of social values in their actions and the motivation of the organizations.

The measurement of social value has been a theme discussed in the plenary sessions including in the last plenary session. In conclusion, there is a need to measure social values, finding a way to learn and disseminate the contrast the SE represents compared to other business formulas.

Theme 4

The future of work and employment: the role of the Social Economy



Although trends such as demographic change, cultural diversity, reconciliation of work and family life, changing work environments and the convergence of technologies are already developed quite clearly, other disruptive events could transform the labor market in an unexpected way: reverse migration, changing values of employed staff or artificial intelligence and robots. It is estimated that 45%-60% of employed people in Europe could be replaced by automation before 2030.

The productive/reproductive work binomial

As an economy becomes commodified and family income increases, an increasing part of reproductive work becomes paid work. Some reproductive tasks are transferred from the domestic sphere to the market, such as day care centers, laundries or the sales of food on the street or in restaurants. Many of these services operate almost exclusively by women. Their work is paid and statistically visible, at least when it is part of the formal sector. However,



The session “Youth and Social Economy”



Presentation by the Seoul Metropolitan Government

it is still “reproductive” work since it contributes to maintaining the labor force and social reproduction.

Reconciliation between work and family life, care, informalization of paid work and equal opportunities are key issues related to the role of the Social Economy in the productive and reproductive work binomial.

During GSEF2018, two initiatives from Spain and Cape Verde were presented on this sub-theme where the following have been highlighted as central themes:

- It is necessary to change the economic thought, put the person in the center and integrate the productive and reproductive market. It is recommended to work with long-term approaches in this area, to raise awareness and empower women in their family planning and socio-economic development, along with continuous and cautious work with men to avoid resistance. Focuses should be made on co-responsibility and on the prevention of risk behaviors that may bring delicate situations to women.
- Along with this, the tasks of care service are mainly done by immigrant women in European countries, many of them in a precarious and irregular situation. Collaborative ways of providing care services have been explored so that the care services can have more social values and also the companies of the care service sector can become more social or from the Social Economy. Generating cooperatives in this sector could be helpful in regularizing the situation of immigrants working in the care service sector.

Education and young people, ensuring the future of the SE

In order to address the issue of youth employability in the future and reduce the growing disparity between labor supply and demand, continuous inclusive education is identified as an appropriate strategy. This solution could also help with the issue of the much-needed adaptability to a rapidly changing world of work in which individuals must change jobs and accept short-term jobs. In addition, it would be advisable for everyone to acquire interpersonal skills in communication and professional networking which are not only acquired during higher education.

During GSEF2018 a total of nine initiatives were presented about Social Economy and youth from Europe, Africa and Asia. The importance of dedicating space and time from an early age (elementary and middle school) has been highlighted first to encourage potentials and passions, which will encourage youth to develop future projects and will be useful in identifying capacities at an early age. Another challenge identified is to facilitate financing mechanisms for start-ups, as young people find great difficulties in obtaining funds for start-up projects.

The initiatives emphasized that the promotion of the social economy is an effective strategy to facilitate the transition of young workers from the informal economy to the social and solidarity economy, to control migration from rural areas to big cities and the immigration of young people, and to improve the goods and services in the communities. They also emphasized the importance of training to develop substantial skills among the most disadvantaged groups in rural areas (young women and migrants) in countries such as Mali or India.

Finally, the session focused on the learning community. The importance of incorporating skills, tools and transformative action spaces into professional training was highlighted because it can contribute to the promotion of human rights with a great impact on citizens.

The demand to give voice and space to young people has been present in GSEF2018 not only at the thematic workshop organized for this purpose, but also through the preparation and announcement of the Youth Declaration where youth clearly demonstrated their need to have spaces to meet and share their stories, knowledge and resources to ensure the continuation of a movement.

Social-labor inclusion and Social Economy

Insertion companies and Special Employment Centers with social values are initiated as an instrument first to fight against poverty and social exclusion and then to improve the social and labor inclusion of people with disabilities.

They are business initiatives combining business logic with job placement methodologies. These companies are not outside the economy’s conventional processes, since they produce goods and services, improve the environment, enhance services to people and foster quality

of life, whilst being profitable and competitive.

Seven initiatives from Bordeaux, Tienen, Tokyo, Montevideo, Bilbao, San Sebastián, and Madrid were presented. Various aspects of inclusion were discussed and they included how to incorporate universities into inclusion support programs and how to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities and boost the companies where they can integrate. Integrating and empowering most vulnerable groups is essential for the creation of citizenship, by recovering public spaces and developing collective exchanges.

They offer keys to success in socio-employment incorporation, such as working on the planning of comprehensive insertion itineraries (individualized, flexible and medium-term), or employments in standardized companies, which are an effective solution for social and labor inclusion. From the point of view of planning, the implementation of processes to reflect in order to improve the working methodologies of the processes for the creation of insertion companies following spect is very effective; to be carried out without forgetting the need to take care of the trainers involved in these itineraries, since they bring together two basic functions: of being the nexus in the training process in the first place and after also in the insertion companies.

Business transformation through the Social Economy

In addition to the traditional start-up processes of Social Economy enterprises by collective entrepreneurs (e.g. cooperative worker ownerships and labor companies, in which the majority of the capital is owned by the workers), there are cases of transforming companies in

crisis or on the verge of closure before closure. The owners decide to become cooperatives or labor companies to maintain employment and productive activity, which are becoming more and more relevant.

Four initiatives were presented from Spain and Belgium. They highlighted how the SE business initiatives have been growing, evolving, and adapting to the times and social changes through the work in responses to the social needs of people who are in a situation of vulnerability.

Through organized and sustainable growth and supporting the diversification of activities and fundamentally with commitment, proactive initiative and participative cooperation, it has been possible to generate initiatives that offer quality services for the community: services in school canteens and hospitals, organic horticulture, or digital economy.



side event organized by C.I.T.I.E.S.



The session "Decent Work and Entrepreneurship for Social and Professional Inclusion in Africa"

6.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGACY OF GSEF2018

This last chapter aims to gather some last comments related to what we consider to be achievements of the Forum and components of the “Legacy of Bilbao”. We refer especially to the three Declarations announced on the closing session: the **Bilbao Declaration**, the **Youth Declaration** and the **Gender Declaration**. The three declarations were possible thanks to the will and contribution of the different families of the Social Economy, who, while living in different realities throughout the world, share the same goal, which is to promote a development model based on the values of the solidarity, equity and transparency.

For the elaboration of the **Bilbao Declaration**, a working group was created in June 2018. This Bilbao Declaration Working Group (BDWG) has reviewed previous discussions and achievements in promoting the contribution of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and the good work of SSE entities and networks together in alliance with local governments and cities as well as their roles for the sustainable development beyond 2018.

Based on the review and reflections from the Seoul Declaration in 2013 and the Montreal Declaration in 2016, the BDWG discussed the fundamental points to be highlighted again in Bilbao and statements to be manifested in the 2018GSEF Declaration for the future of SSE and GSEF.

6 meetings were held via Skype separately in English and French and, 7th meeting was held in Bilbao on 30th September inviting all the members right before the GSEF2018. After in-depth discussions with the members of the working group and international organizations as well as partners at local and global levels they joined all efforts to draft the Bilbao Declaration which will serve as a remarkable cornerstone for an inclusive and sustainable local

development. The Bilbao Declaration was announced at the closing ceremony on 3rd October and then was shared on the GSEF2018 website in four official languages.

Regarding the **Youth Declaration**, the initiative emerged in the Forum itself, with the intention of including the youth’s perspective and having visibility of youth in the Final Bilbao Declaration. Firstly, a committee was formed by the representative of the Young European Cooperatives Network and a representative of the Youth Wing of the Chantier de l’Économie Sociale. They drafted the text of the declaration and validated it with the young participants of the Forum and with 100 young social activists through social media. The elaborated text was shared on a panel within the Forum where it received more comments and opinions.

Once the text was agreed upon and validated, it was agreed in a meeting with the Secretary General of the GSEF not to include it in the Final Declaration, but to assign it a proper space of visibility considering that the involvement and participation of young people is essential for the advancement of the GSEF as a network and for the global progress of Social Economy in general. Thus, the Youth Declaration was announced at the closing session of the Forum, launching a challenging message to the GSEF2020: at least 35% of the people who participates in the fifth edition should be under 35 years. And this is how this Declaration, a first of its kind, became part of the Bilbao legacy.

Regarding the **Declaration of Gender Equality and Social Economy** in favor of equality and Social Economy, it should also be noted that this was the first time that a declaration in favor of equality has been agreed and published in the GSEF International Forums. In this case, the initiative started from REAS-Euskadi, a member of the LOC and it was immediately



Youth Declaration presented at the Closing Ceremony



5 representatives reading the declaration for equality and the social economy

accepted by the rest of the LOC entities. With this, REAS-Euskadi began to work on a text that was distributed among the members of the LOC. After several drafts, the text was agreed to be presented and announced in the 4 official languages of the Forum, in the hall of the Euskalduna at the end of the closing session. Aiming at focusing on the visibility and diversity besides the same commitment, the Gender Declaration was read in a collaborative way by five women from Cameroon, Canada, Korea, Ecuador and Spain.

In addition to these Declarations, GSEF2018 also obtained other achievements.

The European Commission considered that the Bilbao Forum was the ideal place to discuss the role that the Social Economy can play in the sectorial policies of the European Union to promote integration and rural development with representatives from local public authorities, as well as to present its pilot program: “Regions of European Social Economy 2018, Pilot project”, where around thirty representatives of European regions, along with other regions of Eastern Europe, presented their commitment in favor of Social Economy.

The GSEF2018 was also the place chosen to present at a European level the project financed by the European Union with the participation of the Government of Colombia framed in the peace agreements with the FARC. This project aims to promote the integration of ex-combatants and the economic recovery of the most affected areas through the creation of cooperatives.

Together with these achievements, the commitment and dedication of the Social Economy entities of the city of Bilbao together with the LOC have been remarkable. The spirit of working together in collaboration and association with the SE entities and the city of Bilbao, as well as all the other national and international partners was demonstrated and will remain as one of biggest achievements and part of the legacy of the GSEF2018.

DECLARATIONS

BILBAO DECLARATION

October 3 2018 Bilbao

We, the 1700 individuals from 84 countries, participants of the 2018 Global Social Economy Forum - GSEF2018 in Bilbao - strongly affirm that economic development serving both people and planet, leaving no one behind, is rooted in principles of democracy, social justice, solidarity, diversity and peace.

Current context

The magnitude and speed at which today's challenges are developing is unprecedented. Disruptive technologies and artificial intelligence, climate change, globalization, migration and demographic changes are shaping a new reality in which our current development paradigm struggles to adapt. A rapidly transforming labor market with increasingly atypical and precarious forms of employment calls for new strategies to address the future of work. Policy innovation to overcome the challenges faced by our cities and communities to ensure decent work, social protection, prosperity for all, can only be achieved with greater participation of all stakeholders. The co-construction of public policies is embedded in the social economy today.

Despite the diversity of terms, the Social Economy (SE) and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) share the same values of the primacy of people over capital, democratic governance and commitment to an ecological and just transition. Recent trends in many countries and regions demonstrate that youth are increasingly drawn to these values and principles and wish to work collectively to achieve them in all sectors.

We acknowledge the importance of localizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The contribution of the SE and the SSE to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient society is increasingly recognized by UN agencies, governments and civil society as fundamental to achieve these goals. Great efforts in this regard are being made by the many actors and networks here today. The World Forum of Local Economic Development and the Localizing SDGs online resource are examples of this effort to facilitate and map the localization efforts globally.

Commitment to the Social Economy and the Social and Solidarity Economy

Many national, local and regional governments have adopted framework legislation and public policies that promote the SE and the SSE enterprises and organizations to provide effective and innovative solutions to meet local needs in all the economic sectors. They have also supported participatory budgeting, local currencies and solidarity finance mechanisms, and have dedicated public procurement with specific clauses. These measures, laws and policies are not only enabling the scaling and sharing of local practices across territories, but are also catalysts for systemic

change at the macro level in which the SE and the SSE are contributing to the democratic and inclusive transformation of our societies.

Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development

The SE and the SSE enterprises and organizations are viable, efficient, and generate social value and economic returns. Their competitiveness lies in the social impact generated by their activity, with economic returns reinvested into the community or the organization itself, enabling their ongoing capacity to accomplish their mission.

Locally situated, they must be mindful of the environmental impact of their activities and adjust accordingly. The SE and the SSE enterprises promote and create decent work embedded in values of social justice and respect labor rights. Sovereignty and transparency are more present in their supply chains, delivering goods and services based on the needs of the community they serve. Democratic governance and management practices are at the core of their *raison d'être*.

These values and principles underlie the commitment to the active inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, the elderly and persons with disability, and are the foundations of a peaceful and resilient society rooted in solidarity and trust.

Resolutions

Based on the Montreal Declaration of 2016, we, the representatives of the SE and the SSE organizations, local and regional governments, networks and other partners, further commit to:

- Continue the co-construction and co-development of public policies and affirm the central role that each of us plays in overcoming the main challenges faced by our cities and communities
- Prioritize and pursue our efforts to support and finance processes and fora that gather and coordinate input from civil society
- Recognize and support research that identifies the needs and expertise of the SE and the SSE entities and measures their impact, in order to improve the knowledge of actors at all levels and support the dissemination of best practices
- Advocate member states to call for a UN resolution on the Social and Solidarity Economy
- Further collaborate in the development of linkages between territories (both urban and rural) and work towards greater policy coherence at all levels of government (local, regional, national, international)
- Mobilize ethical, alternative and solidarity finance and local savings to support the further development the SE and the SSE
- Improve environmental practices to become more transparent in production-consumption circuits in order to generate a necessary ecological and just transition

We strive to achieve these resolutions by leveraging the roles, responsibilities and strengths of each of us (SE and SSE entities, government, universities, research institutes, UN and other international organizations), and by collaborating to assure an inclusive, just, resilient, and sustainable local development.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL ECONOMY. Declaration in favor of an inclusive economic and social model

October 3 2018 Bilbao

On 8th March this year, thousands of women all over the world took part in an unprecedented general strike, affecting not only employment but also care and consumption, in an attempt to show society that when women stop, the world is shaken. This general strike, which saw women protesting the urgency of guaranteeing gender equality and ending the different types of violence that affect their lives, was accompanied by mass demonstrations. In Bilbao, as in many cities all over the world, the demonstration filled the street with women, and men, calling for an end to gender inequality.

The social economy can only support these claims because, precisely, in many of our business and organization models, we consider gender equality as one of our values. In many cases, these are not mere declarations of intentions but real situations that, day by day, women have been able to overcome.

However, despite actions run by social economy organizations in favor of gender equality, even though the progress has been made over the last few years, and the thrust and decisions that women make in their daily lives, challenges still remain.

And this happens because, often without realizing it, we reproduce gender power relations. And this happens despite that fact that the values that we defend and on which we build our economic and professional projects focus our activities precisely on all persons, in an attempt to guarantee equal opportunities and equality as a fundamental pillar of the social economy.

Solidarity, cooperation, democracy are fundamental values of the social economy that should already be guaranteeing gender equality in a socially inclusive economic model.

In addition, to move forwards with full equality between men and women, from the social economy, and based on our values, we have to start taking important steps. Therefore, we are committing to:

- Promoting an inclusive work market that, by appreciating diversity and differences, guarantees equality opportunities for all persons and respectable, good quality employment
- Categorically rejecting all forms of discrimination because, to help improve living conditions, the development model should be based on equal participation from women
- Transforming our work processes to raise awareness on and consider all the tasks, productive and reproductive, that make the economy possible and sustainable, acknowledging the economic and social value of care.
- Generating protocols and immediate responses to reject gender violence to rid our organizations and society of this behavior
- Working to improve the practices of organizations in the social economy in terms of equal pay and representation in our decision-making bodies, getting rid of the pay gap or glass

ceilings

- Promoting the social economy as a pillar of our future cities, helping to build spaces to live together equally and boosting inclusive citizenship.
- Raising awareness and generating critical awareness around us. Empowering, learning and training up in new skills to demand gender equality in all the necessary spaces, inside and outside the social economy

And don't forget that the social economy can only be as such if it is a feminist, fair, supportive and participative economy!

YOUTH DECLARATION

October 3 2018 Bilbao

Youth vision

We believe that decent work is a powerful tool for transformation from extractive and exploitative work realities, as a result tackling multiple crises we are facing. We are citizens, students, community builders, curious explorers, parents, activists, cooperators, change makers, entrepreneurs - you name it! But we come together around values and principles of equality; meaningful and impactful work; being appreciated and having economic security; equal pay; being able to express ourselves and use our skills for the benefit of society; collaboration rather than competition; equal ownership; democratic rights and cultures of participation to influence our work and living conditions.

Business as usual has failed us. But we have each other and the wider solidarity movement to together explore, re-imagine and build a meaningful, inclusive and critical movement to demand change and create visions of the future together. We need to tap into the power of solidarity to have real systemic impact. We want to use social ventures as a vehicle for social impact and to sustain and care for our environment - not to destroy it. We need opportunities to self-empower; share our stories, knowledge and resources. We need spaces to come together and ensure the continuation of this movement to dig deeper and aim higher.

Recommendations

We believe youth spaces and participation must not be built in parallel to the spaces of the movement. As a key stakeholder of the future of SSE, "youth" is not an issue that is to be treated on its own – it is a generation that has projects, opinions and visions for most if not all the themes touched in the programming. Significantly less young people attended GSEF2018 than we expected. The SSE will directly benefit from greater youth participation in its structures, as they and the GSEF become more inclusive and attractive to young persons.

As such, we believe that SSE structures and the GSEF association should formulate goals of higher participation of youth both as speakers, spokespersons and event attendees. Data should be collected on participant ages and a numerical target – we suggest 35% - should be set for participants under 35 and supported with funding. A goal should also be set to foster participation of those under 25, the often forgotten "younger youth".

Furthermore, we believe this integration of youth in the global movement must come with a voice within. If a significant participation of young SSE leaders from around the globe is achieved for GSEF2020, the program should include a plenary of youth to foster collaboration. We hope an international network of youth leaders can emerge from this meeting that will contribute to the work of the GSEF association before and between events. We also hope national and local SSE

structures can make space for, and give power to, their own youth.

Finally, we must acknowledge that the majority of youth who stand to benefit from the SSE and who are using it to change their livelihoods are in the Global South, and that they are particularly under-represented in our movement. In the face of significant barriers to access to international events for this major constituency, specific efforts and resources should be affected to encourage and support participation of youth from the Global South in future editions of GSEF and in the global networks of the SSE.



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