



MEXICO CITY 2021  
GLOBAL SOCIAL  
ECONOMY FORUM



# GENERAL REPORT

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## **GSEF2021 Global Forum**

**Local governments and social economy:  
co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy**

**Mexico City**

## GENERAL REPORT

### GSEF2021 GLOBAL FORUM

Local governments and Social Economy:  
co-creation of paths for a green and  
inclusive economy

D.R. 2021, National Institute of Social  
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This is a public program which is not connected to any  
political party. It is prohibited to use it for purposes  
other than social development.

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# Introduction

In 2020, COVID-19 forced us to contemplate new scenarios, new paths. The world stopped for a while, but we discovered that even if we were far from each other, we could keep going forward. After 5 days at the Virtual Global Forum GSEF2020, with 90 countries, 35 sessions and more than 800 thousand people gathered online, we were able to reassert that the collective power can transform, and that the bigger the challenges... the greater is the solidarity.

Now in 2021, the infinite desire to transform our present and shape the future is calling us; we must move on towards a state of general well-being. A better world is possible, and placing people and the environment at the center of our attention is the right path to achieve it. In such a context, we must think back on the role played by all the actors from society at the collective organization scheme in order to design, develop and foster multisectoral strategies aiming a future society of common well-being.

Because of its revolutionary proposals, **the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is definitely a path that may allow us to move towards a collective state of well-being**, a model based on the principles of cooperation, solidarity, equality and democratic self-management on the implementation of strategies, methodologies, actions and practices executed by collective property enterprises, non-governmental organizations, collectives, governments, academia and the civil society.

The Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) is an international association between local governments, networks and civil society actors engaged in promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy as a mean to accomplish a local inclusive and sustainable development. This year, Mexico City was the host for its 5<sup>th</sup> global edition; the Organizing Committee, composed by the Government of Mexico City<sup>1</sup> and the Government of Mexico<sup>2</sup>, along with 30 organizations<sup>3</sup> more, introduced the Global Forum GSEF2021 with the main theme:

- 
- 1 The Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion and the General Coordination of Advisers and International Affairs.
  - 2 The National Institute for Social Economy from the Ministry of Well-being.
  - 3 The National Institute for Social Economy from the Ministry of Well-being.





## About GSEF

GSEF is an international association of local governments, networks and actors from the civil society engaged in promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy as a mean to accomplish a local, inclusive and sustainable development. GSEF fosters different types of Social Economy, including social enterprises, cooperatives, foundations, mutuals and help groups prioritizing people over profits. GSEF believes that systematic changes start first from the local level based on the alliance between civil society and the public and private sectors. GSEF has 75 members from 5 continents and 36 different countries, including local governments and 35 networks and actors from the SSE.

GSEF organizes biannual international forums along its city members in different continents. It's one of the most prestigious meetings on social economy, gathering actors from international organizations, local/central governments and networks of the civil society. GSEF serves as a platform for mutual learning, knowledge exchange and development of the agenda.



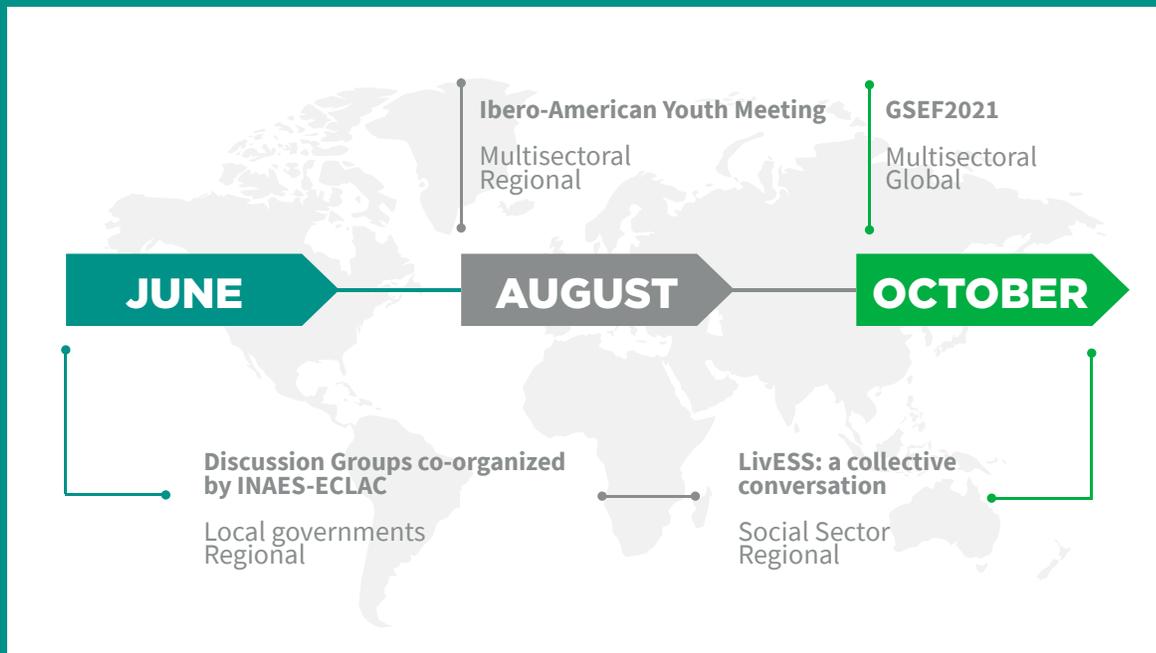
## About GSEF in 2021

During the closure of GSEF2018, which took place in Bilbao, Mexico City was officially announced as the host for the 5th edition of the GSEF2020; it was scheduled for October 2020, however, due to the pandemic, it was agreed to postpone the Forum until 2021.

Our actions were not slowed down though, instead, by making the most of new technologies, our efforts led to the Virtual Global Forum GSEF2020 among other activities, which can be found on the report of that same year.

The Organizing Committee was strengthened by this experience and, in 2021, we were ready for the first hybrid forum in the history of the GSEF. Some preparatory sessions were organized from June to September in Mexico, and concluded with GSEF2021 from October 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities of the GSEF in 2021



Developed by INAES

**Table 1. Summary of the multiple activities conducted in 2021 as part of the GSEF**

### 4 Discussion Groups INAES-ECLAC

Four discussion groups were organized by the National Institute for Social Economy (INAES) of Mexico, in coordination with the Social Development Division from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); they took place from June to October 2021. One of the sessions was carried out during the GSEF2021 Forum, and its goal was to **highlight the potential of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) on the public agenda** to build the societies of the future facing the health crisis originated by COVID-19.



**Ibero-American Youth Meeting “Rebuilding the world from the Social and Solidarity Economy”**

From the Cultural Center El Rulo, the Ibero-American Youth connected themselves, both physical and virtually, in a program designed and motivated by and for the young people. It took place on August 31st, and its goal was to contribute to the consideration and promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy as a mean to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

**LivESS A collective conversation**

Multiple cooperatives and cooperativists from Latin-America with innovative projects, discussed and proved that the SSE could be found in every field and exposed their work and contributions to live the SSE. They took place from June to October 2021 through the social media of the INAES.

**Global Forum GSEF2021, Mexico City “Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy”**

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the GSEF took place in Mexico City, from October 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. For the first time in its history, the more important Forum in Social and Solidarity Economy took place in Latin-America, and it was also the first to be carried out in a hybrid format (virtually and physically) at the Museum José Luis Cuevas. The goal was to reflect on and spark off solutions to cut down on highly increasing inequalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and move towards a state of general well-being.

Developed by INAE



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## El recorrido temático

The Social and Solidarity Economy is a model of hope pushing us to build the societies of the future, the SSE seeks to reconsider the current dynamics through cooperation, mutual help, the interest in the community and the general well-being.

In each one of the multiple organizational forms of the social economy, such as cooperatives, shared lands, communities, mutuels, social enterprises, solidarity undertakings, collectives and the multi-actor networks, we intend to place people and their dignity at the core of the actions, and respond to their perceived needs, as well as promoting the conservation and regeneration of the environment; we intend to reduce human inequalities and create inclusive social structures at all times.

GSEF2021, more than a simple space for exchanging ideas and experiences, is a space to reflect on and co-create paths to foster the Social and Solidarity Economy development around the world.

Such an important event was introduced by some preparatory activities covering multiple thematic fields, in each one of them, ideas were exchanged in order to co-create paths from the different sectors and with the multiple actors, to build a greener and more inclusive economy.

The Social and Solidarity Economy must be considered everywhere, in everything and for everyone. One legitimate concern coming from the sector on how to consolidate the SSE and its impact on the actions against environmental, social and economic crisis, allowed to align components and elements to reunite cooperatives, to consolidate alliances between international governments, to call and organize the youth and to promote the benefits of the Social Economy in virtual environments.

Below, in Table 2, the different topics addressed during the preparatory activities are shown:

Table 2. Topics for each activity

Discussion groups towards the configuration of a network of Latin-American governments	Ibero-American Youth Meeting	LivESS	GSEF2021 Forum
<p><b>1.</b> Building a new future: The Social and Solidarity Economy in a recovery focused on sustainability and equality.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Regional discussion: Socio-occupational inclusion in Latin-America and the Caribbean from the SSE.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Network of Governments for the SSE in Latin-America and the Caribbean: Decent work for sustainable economies and inclusive societies.</p> <p><b>4.</b> The Social and Solidarity Economy's role in Latin-America and the Caribbean against the challenges of informal work.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Rebuilding the world from the Social and Solidarity Economy.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> A collective conversation: Cangurú</p> <p><b>2.</b> A collective conversation: Onergia</p> <p><b>3.</b> A collective conversation: Bicientrega</p> <p><b>4.</b> A collective conversation: Jardín Azuayo</p> <p><b>5.</b> A collective conversation: Le Colective</p> <p><b>6.</b> A collective conversation: Cooperos</p> <p><b>7.</b> A collective conversation: ECOOS – Social Economy School</p>	<p>“Local governments and social economy: co-creation of paths to a green and inclusive economy”</p> <p><b>1.</b> Build and rebuild an inclusive community</p> <p><b>2.</b> Education, learning and research for Social and Solidarity Economy</p> <p><b>3.</b> Contribution to ecological transformation from SSE</p> <p><b>4.</b> Promote diverse and innovative mechanisms of Social Finance</p> <p><b>5.</b> Develop the territorial and international alliances</p>

Developed by INAES

During the GSEF2021 Forum, which took place in Mexico City and had for main theme **“Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy”**, multiple sessions were carried out, and a diverse evaluation committee, integrated by local and global actors as well as multiple institutions engaged on the work of the SSE, agreed on and selected the titles and content for these sessions.

All sessions of the GSEF Forum considered the next guiding question:

**What should be the actions or strategies of individuals, governments, groups, societies, countries, to achieve a better and more inclusive world? What key actions should be promoted from the local level?**

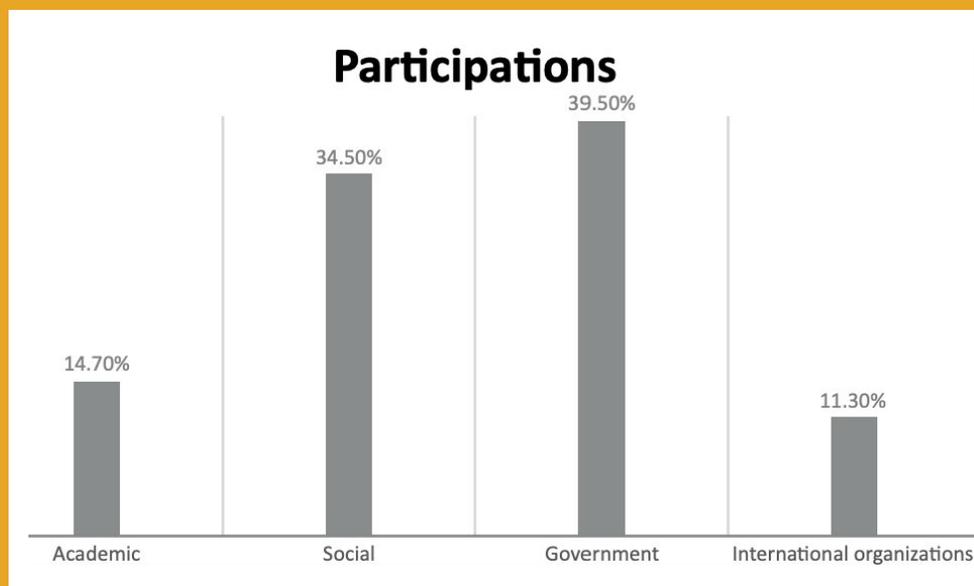
This question served as a guide to articulate ideas, to share experiences, thoughts and to motivate the global conversation on Social and Solidarity Economy in general.

## General Numbers 2021

The participation was wide and diverse. After the activities, 382 interventions by the multiple panelists -coming from 53 different countries- were recorded.

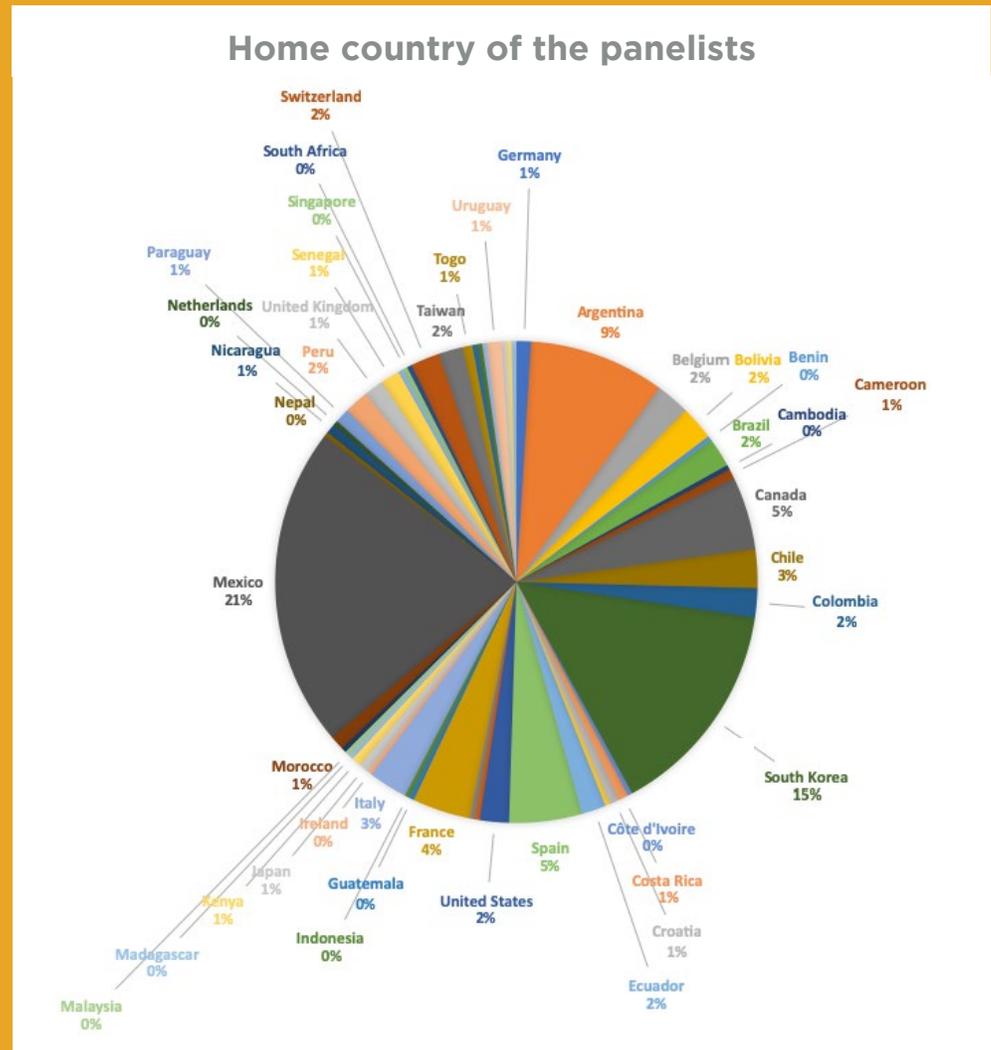
By grouping together in academic, social, government and international organizations sectors, we get the following distribution:

Graph 1. Participation by sectors



Developed by INAES

Graph 2. Home country of the panelists

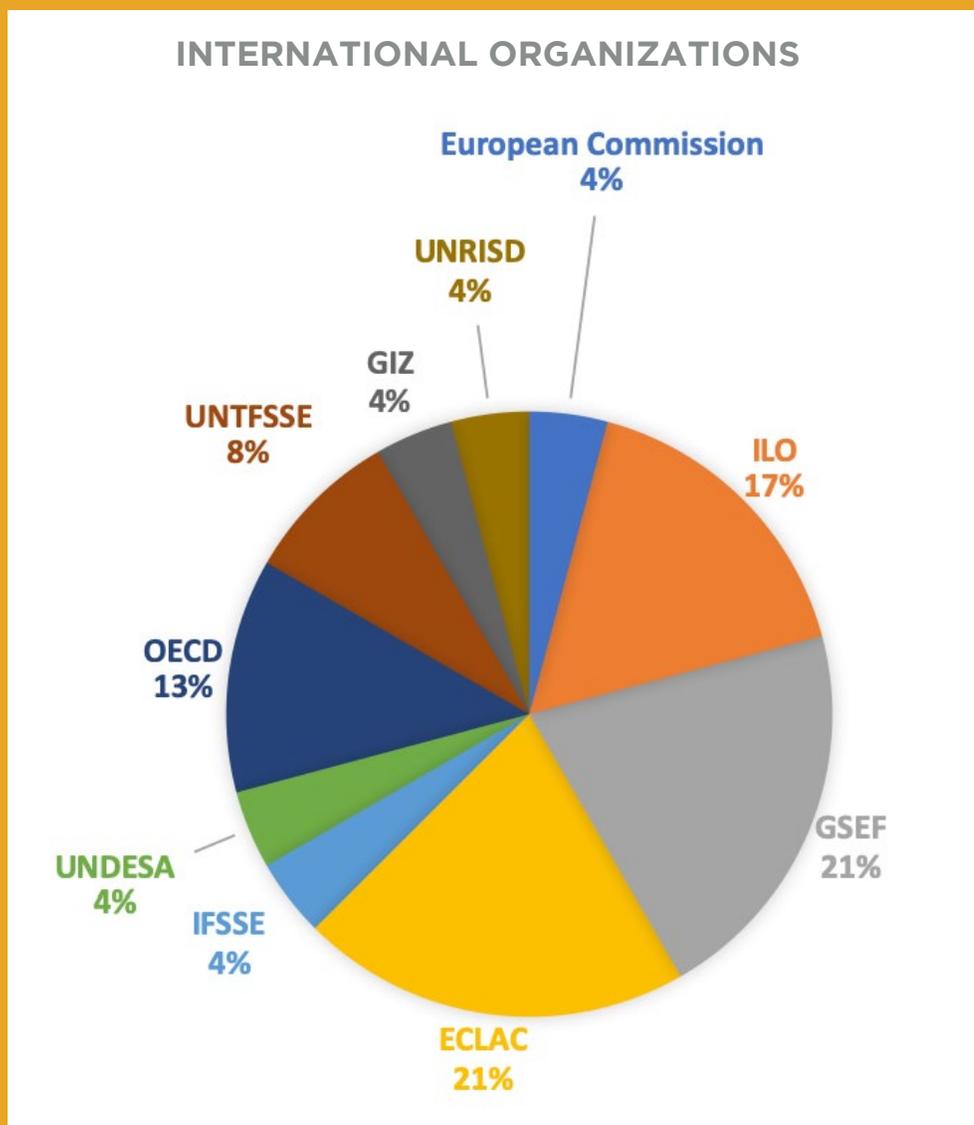


Developed by INAES



During 2021, 10 international organizations participated:

Graph 3. Participation of international organizations



Developed by INAES



## Impact of the activities

The purpose of the Global Forum is to promote the SSE, and, in order to accomplish its goal, we need dissemination strategies on traditional media and social networks as well. About the impact of the activities that took place from October 2020 to December 2021, we estimate we reached more than 1 million people.

The following table considers the number of people connected via Zoom, the people connected on social media, the total of participants registration and of physical assistants to the activities that were carried out this year.

**Table 3. Impact of the activities as part of the GSEF2021 Forum\***

Activity	Session/Number of sessions	Date	Registry	People on Zoom	Physical participation	gsef2021.org	People reached on social media
<b>Discussion Groups INAES- ECLAC</b>	Building a new future: the Social and Solidarity Economy in a sustainable and equal recovery.	9-jun-2021	150	159	N/A	N/A	38100
	Regional conversation: Socio-occupational inclusion in Latin-America and the Caribbean from the SSE.	23-sep-2021					
	Network of Governments for the Social and Solidarity Economy in Latin-America and the Caribbean: Decent work for sustainable economies and inclusive societies.	6-oct-2021					
	The Social and Solidarity Economy's role in Latin-America and the Caribbean against the challenges of informal work.	25-oct-2021					
<b>LivESS A collective conversation</b>	Cangurú	17-jun-2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47862
	Onergia	14-jul-2021					
	Bicientrega	22-jul-2021					
	Jardín Azuayo	6-ago-2021					
	Le Colective	25-ago-2021					
	Cooperos	9-sep-2021					
ECOOS	30-sep-2021						
<b>Ibero-American Youth Meeting</b>	15 sessions "Rebuilding the world from the Social and Solidarity Economy"	31-ago-2021	3444	55	50	N/A	57578
<b>GSEF2021 Global Forum</b>	58 sessions "Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy"	4 al 8 de octubre de 2021	6500	289	192	25000	690507
<b>TOTAL</b>			10094	503	242	25000	834047
					<b>869886</b>		

\*Last estimation: November 2021  
Developed by INAES



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## Discussion Groups INAES-ECLAC

The Discussion Groups towards the configuration of a Latin-American network of governments were a series of virtual meetings where, over the course of 4 sessions, the incumbents of the multiple governmental offices working on Social and Solidarity Economy from 12 different Latin-American countries, shared their experiences and practices of the strategies implemented in their own countries to promote the SSE.

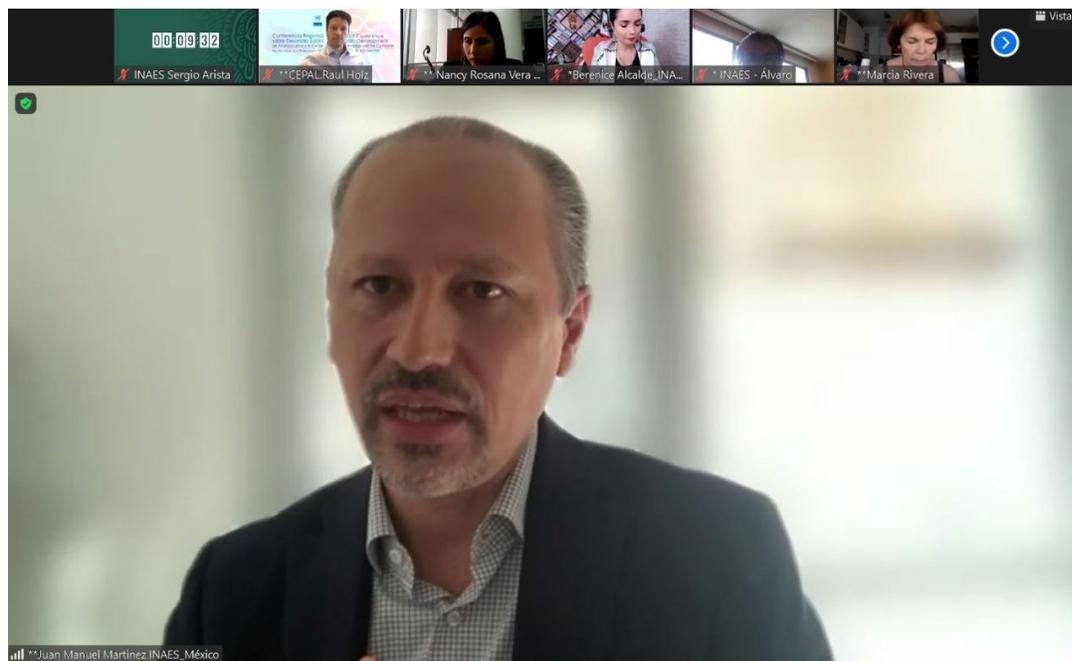
The alliance between the Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES by its initials in Spanish) allowed us to:

- Gather public servants from all over Latin-America to share their experiences throughout multiple conversations on different topics.
- Witness the participation of the Regional Agenda on Social Inclusive Development along the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin-America and the Caribbean in the multiple facets of the social crisis by COVID-19 and in social inclusion and work policies.
- Share different paths to foster the social and solidarity economy in the region.
- Exchange different experiences on public policies to encourage the SSE, and the cooperation between the actors involved.
- Instill the configuration of a network of governments to foster the SSE in Latin-America and the Caribbean.

### Numbers:

- 4 discussion groups;
- 34 panelists via Zoom;
- 12 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, Dominican Republic);
- More than 125 participants via Zoom;
- More than 38 100 people reached on social media;
- 1 international event with physical participation (GSEF2021);
- 1 regional event with physical participation (Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin-America and the Caribbean);
- 4 topics

The discussion groups emphasized the importance of promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy as a model allowing to create new public policies to reduce inequality in Latin-America, to foster inclusion and collaboration and an alliance to build the societies of the future. .



## LivESS. A collective conversation

A series of conversations with different cooperatives and cooperativists from the Latin-American Region, with innovative projects proving that the SSE can be in everything; and we got to know their work and contributions to live the SSE. These conversations took place from June to October 2021 through the social media of the INAES.

This series of interviews allowed to:

- Share the Latin-American experience on SSE;
- Provide a space for the diffusion of the multiple activities from the cooperatives integrated by young people;
- Highlighting the place of the SSE on different topics, such as technology, services, education, banking, culture, etcetera.
- Learn how they live the SSE on different territories of Mexico and Latin-America

### Numbers:

- 7 sessions with 7 cooperatives: Cangurú, Onergia, Bicientrega, Jardín Azuayo, Le Colective, Cooperos y ECOOS-Social Economy School;
- 16 people interviewed;
- More than 420 minutes of live transmission;
- 47862 people reached on social media.



inaes\_mx, bicient... DIRECTO 13

- emilio0109hr se ha unido
- andreamza ha empezado a ver este vídeo en directo
- g.e.r.b.o se ha unido
- tendrea\_arrazas se ha unido
- carlosoriot se ha unido
- chvl.9 se ha unido
- roberroselle se ha unido
- carlosoriot 🧑🏻 🚲
- lau\_esq se ha unido

😊 Añade un comentario... ⋮ 📌

inaes\_mx, jardin.azuayo DIRECTO 41

- diegolucero75 🍌
- lisggi ❤️
- vansgtt2710 se ha unido
- daniela\_zumba24 se ha unido
- paco.carrion se ha unido
- red\_de\_la\_gente se ha unido
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- leoneleduardoarmijosgonzalez y josstoala se han unido
- ladyb11rdx se ha unido
- davidzambrano\_03 se ha unido
- caro\_suarez.m y isidro866 se han unido

😊 Añade un comentario... ⋮ 📌



## Ibero-American Youth Meeting: Rebuilding the world from the Social and Solidarity Economy

One of the special activities that took place on the way to the Global Social Economy Forum 2021, was the Ibero-American Youth Meeting entitled **“Rebuilding the world from the Social and Solidarity Economy”**. It was encouraged by members of the GSEF Ibero-American Network and it took place on August 31st 2021 in the context of the month of the Youth.

In coordination with the National Institute for Social Economy (INAES) and as part of the Network, this meeting sought to contribute to the reflection on and exposure of the Social and Solidarity Economy as a path to achieve the 2030 Agenda. For this, we established three strategical axes:

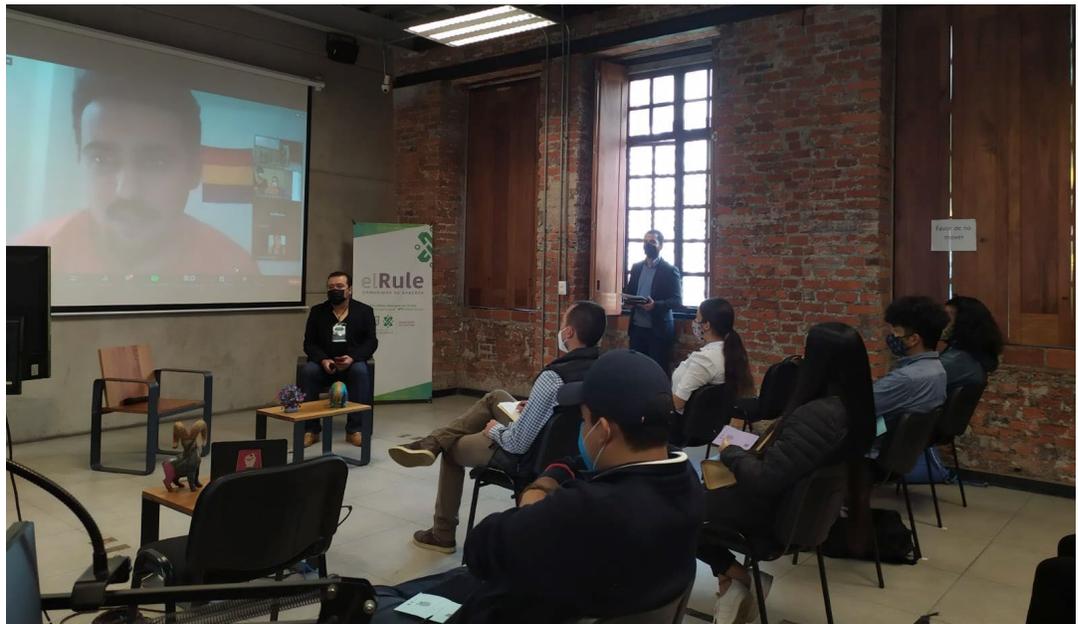
New Generations	Visibility	Bonding
Bring the Social and Solidarity Economy to the young people of Ibero-America.	Prove the SSE as an option of economic inclusion for the youth.	Strengthen the role of the GSEF Youth Network in the region by means of the bonding of the multiple actors and sectors.



For the first time in a hybrid format -both physical and virtual-, the youth and the public in general participated in a dynamic and creative program.

### Numbers:

- More than 10 hours of activities;
- 15 sessions and 25 speakers;
- 3,444 people from 20 countries registered;
- 57,578 people reached on social media;
- 30 youth representatives in the Organizing Committee.





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## Global Forum GSEF2021, Mexico City

The fifth edition of the GSEF took place in Mexico City, from, **October 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 2021**. For the first time in its history, the most important forum on Social Economy was hosted by a Latin-American country and in a hybrid format (physical and virtual) from the Museum José Luis Cuevas. The goal was to reflect on and find solutions to reduce inequalities - drastically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic- and move on to a state of general well-being.

The Forum had 58 sessions, selected in collaboration with the Organizing Committee, the Technical Secretariat and the GSEF Secretariat. The process started with an open application for all the interested people in participating and then the applications were examined by the Committee. The sessions were allocated this way:

- 6 plenary sessions carried out by city majors, members and invited organizations, with simultaneous interpretation in English, Spanish and French;
- 25 self-organized sessions;
- 15 sessions consisting of individual initiatives on different topics related to the social and Solidarity Economy in the current context;
- 12 special or formal sessions.

Multiple panelists representing local and national governments, networks and international organizations, specialists, scholars, enterprises and the civil society among others, participated in the Global Forum GSEF2021. With all the different and diverse actors and represented sectors, an important discussion on the experiences and challenges regarding the Social and Solidarity Economy took place.

The GSEF2021 Forum allowed to:

- Exchange experiences, strategies and policies fostering the general well-being of the societies based on principles, practices and values of the SSE.
- Identify solutions and alternatives articulated by the social sector of the economy from the territories and aiming to impact globally.
- Highlight initiatives and projects on public policies based on the Social and Solidarity Economy in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Suggest new paths based on the SSE to face the social and economic crisis (post-pandemic) we're currently going through.



## Numbers:

- 1 hybrid Forum: physical and virtual;
- 2 Venues, the physical: Museum José Luis Cuevas in Mexico City; and the virtual: [www.gsef2021.org](http://www.gsef2021.org);
- 5 days;
- Almost 120 hours of live transmission from Mexico and South-Korea;
- 3 official languages (Spanish, French and English) + Korean and Portuguese;
- 1 Organizing Committee with 31 actors from Latin-America and Europe and from some international organizations as well;
- 18 strategic allies;
- 58 sessions;
- 307 panelists coming from 53 different countries;
- 48 physical panelists and 144 participants from 10 countries;
- 19 cultural activities;
- 6500 data records from 126 countries (both virtual and physical);
- 25 000 views from the virtual venue during the time of the Forum;
- If we consider all the actions carried out since October 2020 to November 2021, **the Social and Solidarity Economy reached more than 1 million people.**

## GSEF2021 Mexico City Declaration

GSEF has played a key role in mobilizing Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors and organizations internationally since its creation in Seoul in 2013. GSEF2021 now gathers in Mexico City after travelling to Montreal in 2016 and Bilbao in 2018. It has become a voice for SSE globally, calling upon local, regional and national governments to recognize the vital role played by SSE in meeting socioeconomic and environmental challenges common to countries throughout the world.

The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 made it impossible to convene GSEF2020 in Mexico City. However, a highly successful GSEF Global Virtual Forum was held with 8,500 participants from 19 to 23 October 2020.

Today on the last day of the 5th edition, organized in a hybrid format due to the ongoing crisis, we issue this declaration to express the shared commitment of all participants from across the planet, with significant contributions from Mexico and the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region.

### CALL FOR ACTION

GSEF2021 has provided a space for knowledge exchange and synergies amongst SSE actors, who reaffirm their commitment to the following:

We call on **all governments** and **international and regional organizations** to:

- Respect the basic right of equal access to quality social services, especially health Services, and ensure the right to a dignified life for all;
- Foster the fundamental values of humanity and social inclusion in all aspects of life, including gender equity, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, and dignity;
- Increase the participation of young people in positioning SSE as a means to face the current health, socioeconomic and environmental crisis;
- Promote the development and adoption of co-constructed regulatory and legislative frameworks, and enable public policies at the local level in favor of SSE to strengthen its ecosystems;
- Collaborate and coordinate with national, regional and local governments. All stakeholders - citizens, SSE networks and organizations - must participate in this process;
- Support decentralized cooperation in order to enhance the local anchoring of SSE.

We specifically call on **local governments** to:

- Adopt a local development approach embracing the principles and values of SSE;
- Strengthen the development of local and regional ecosystems by promoting innovative partnerships between actors of the traditional and/or informal economy, SSE actors and local governments;
- Implement policies which promote the emergence of socially innovative local solutions and support their growth potential.

We ask **SSE actors** to:

- Step up North-South and South-South cooperation and exchanges, as well as exchanges between multiple actors in order to continue promoting the SSE and social innovation;
- Promote new and lasting alliances between SSE enterprises in order to develop socially innovative projects, rooted in local communities;
- Strengthen political advocacy for the adoption of policies and legal frameworks that favor the development of the SSE in partnership with governments, especially local ones;

- 
- Undertake research and develop specialized knowledge on the SSE;
  - Adopt a long-term approach to the promotion of the SSE in line with the UN SDGs;
  - Give priority to gender, race and intersectional perspectives;
  - Actively participate in the joint design of tools to measure and assess the effects of SSE initiatives.

## Conclusions

The Social and Solidarity Economy calls us once again to react. During the GSEF2021 Forum, the participants gathered for 5 days and brought to light not only the importance of developing new strategies but the greater importance of going back to each territory and implement new practices to improve the environment.

GSEF2021 not only was the front door to Mexico and Latin-America, but an example of resilience and hope for all of us because, after living a global health crisis such as the pandemic by COVID-19, our hearts were filled with joy to meet again in a physical or in a virtual way, and the passion for the Social and Solidarity Economy was rekindled as well.

**Through more than 2 years of work, we have proven that by working in collective for a common good, we can achieve our goals in spite of the obstacles and the struggles.** This report offers the graphs on the impact and the success of the event, nevertheless, we can tell that **way beyond the numbers, the GSEF2021 has left a lasting mark of reflection, of criticism, of hope, of collaboration, of cooperation and of solidarity in each one of the physical and virtual assistants.**

The path does not end here. After one week of hard work, what is really important is to keep encouraging the Social and Solidarity Economy model to be everywhere and for everybody.

We'll see each other again in 2023 when we meet again in the city of Dakar with new experiences, fresh ideas and the display of greater results, prove of the implementation of the SSE in the world.

## Organizing Committee

Headed by:



**Laurence Kwark**

*Secretary General of the  
Global Social Economy Fo-  
rum (GSEF)*



**Claudia Sheinbaum**

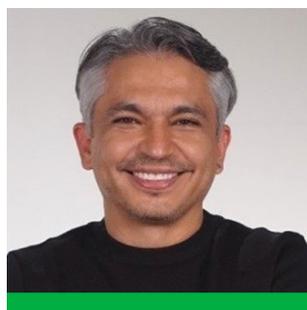
*Head of the Government  
of Mexico City*



**Juan Manuel Martínez  
Louvier**

*Director General from the  
National Institute for  
Social Economy (INAES)  
and President of the  
Organizing Committee  
of the GSEF2021*

The Technical Secretariat of the Organizing Committee was composed as well by the incumbents of the allied institutions from the Government of Mexico City:



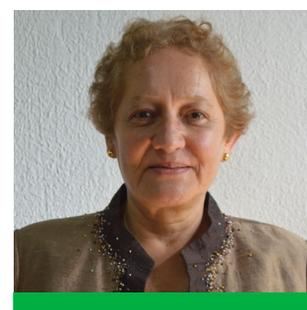
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**Fadlala Akabani Hneide**

*Secretary for Economic  
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Affairs of Mexico City*

**All this would not have been possible without the collaboration of the German Sparkassenstiftung Foundation Latin-America and the Caribbean (Sparkassen Foundation)**





# GSEF2021 Global Forum

## Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy

This document was written as part of the results of the Global Forum GSEF2021, organized by the Secretariat of the GSEF and Mexico, through the Local Organizing Committee of the GSEF2021, constituted by Mexico City Government through the Ministry for Economic Development, the Ministry for Labor and Employment Promotion and the General Coordination of Advisers and International Affairs; and by the Government of Mexico through the National Institute for Social Economy and the Ministry of Well-being.

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**Mexico, November 2021**

## Technical Secretariat:



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**GSEF2021 Global Forum**  
**Local governments and Social Economy:**  
**co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy**

**General Report**

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