

Praia Manifesto

In Favour of Inclusive, Resilient, Low Carbon,
Sustainable Local Economic Development:

Let's Implement Social and Solidarity Economy
and Finance (SSEF) Now!

- 20th of October 2017 -
Executive Summary



We gathered in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 17th - 20th October, for the *4th World Forum of Local Economic Development (LED)*.

Our organisations represent **Social & Solidarity Economy and Social & Solidarity Finance (SSEF)**.

➤ **We rejoice and take good note of the recognition and historical development of legal and institutional frameworks for SSEF:**

- **These measures, laws and policies have enabled the organisation of scaling up and paradigm change to a "macro-SSEF" that is able to propose a genuine systemic metamorphosis of our societies through differentiated approaches (cultures, structures, institutional systems, subsidiarity, shared governance). This is because they are always based on local endogenous resources, knowledge and dialogue between local actors, in territories where solidarity has been reinstated and enhanced.**

They aim to **relocalise** the economy, energy and food systems, etc. to build sustainable territories where urban and rural areas are linked so that they can develop and cooperate in harmony, fight the competitive, divisive logic, and create sustainable employment that will enable people to remain in their territories, to innovate and build a new kind of society.

The creation of participatory multi-actor institutional spaces for consultation and joint actions dedicated to SSEF, and the many recent recognitions by actors in institutional fields that did not traditionally engage with SSEF provides a historical opportunity that should be seized to make a major paradigm shift through SSEF to orientations and ways of implementing resilient, low carbon, inclusive sustainable development as it has been called for by the international community in all international agreements adopted since the 2015-2016 cycle of negotiations.

These outcomes are the fruit of mobilisation, advocacy and partnership with allies over several decades by the historical, or more recent, international networks of SSEF such as: the International Mutual Society Association (AIM), ESS Forum International (ESS FI), the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative banks (FEBEA), the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the International Association of Investors in Social Economy (INAISE), and the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy (RIPESS).

Jointly and separately, they have relays in many different countries and key sectors, and are thus in a position to propose methodologies and tools that are specific to SSEF, as well as engaging in and implementing actions to support national or local strategies of sustainable, responsible Local Economic Development in partnership with their allies and local actors.

➤ **Let us restate the key role of SSEF and its potential for change in the global and local agenda of sustainable local economic development:**

- **The work of the UNTFSSSE¹ and the positions of the SSE Leading Group² have shown that the SDGs can not be fully realised without the effective mobilisation of the SSEF actors and their expertise; this expertise has been designed from their response to local issues, in all the fields covered by the SDGs. Achieving 65 of the 179 SDGs targets at least partially implies SSEF.**

The principles and key means of action of SSEF are anchored in the values that are defined in the text of Agenda 2030. It is a recognised vector for localising it as well as for implementation at all scales of action. It is intrinsically cross-cutting, and can ensure the interconnections between the different SDGs.

¹ http://untfsse.org/?page_id=499

² www.essfi.coop/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/ENG-D%C3%A9claration-ILGSSE-AGNU_280915.pdf

- **Sustainable LED provides an opportunity to scale up and out SSEF practice in a way that connects the actors and includes them on organised economic sectors and institutions** that are part of the regulatory framework, and the ecosystems of actors and technical support programmes, incubators and technological innovation; as well as providing access to existing funding.

Responsible LED can therefore have the effect of multiplying impacts and contribute to strengthening the systemic, integrated dimension of SSEF in a sustainable, resilient, inclusive model of LED, where the wealth that is locally created remains within the territory, and benefits the whole local community.

Sustainable LED and SSEF are therefore vectors of stabilisation and strengthening of the natural, social, and human capital at local level, as well as providing territorial cohesion and resilience to the cycles of the global economy.

- **In conclusion, we commit to build an approach in partnership** with the UNTFSSSE, the International SSE Leading Group, the *Advisory Group of International SSEF Organisations to the UNTFSSSE*³ that was created in 2017, the major international networks and themes of the local and regional governments, bi- and multilateral development banks, and all other voluntary organisations representing the economic actors and civil society, **to:**

At local, national and regional levels:

- **Strengthen the organisational approaches of SSEF** by mobilising our networks of experts, actors and partners at various levels of actions; organising a system for transferring knowledge and skills, partially through the *Knowledge Hub* organised by UNTFSSSE, and supported by the *Advisory Group* as well as by systemic implementation of regional and national cooperation and expertise Hubs of SSEF and sustainable LED, e.g. through peer-to-peer networks such as CITIES⁴. This expertise will be implemented in agreement with central, local and regional governments, UN Agencies, and all interested organisations and actors.

At international level:

- **Explore in a more detailed manner the links between SSEF and responsible, sustainable LED by building an alliance of shared interests of the key actors of LED. This would liberate the potentialities of territories, and strengthen the links between SSEF and LED from a conceptual, political, strategic and operational point of view and implement a joint programme of actions and partnerships that would aim to:**
 - **Organise joint mobilisation before the High Level Political Forum of 2018** and propose a holistic approach to the implementation of SDGs, specifically 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 to be reviewed by the HLPF in 2018. And on the basis of the solutions provided by responsible sustainable LED and SSEF.
 - **Jointly organise the Global Forum of Social Economy (GSEF)**, on “SSE and cities, values, competitiveness for inclusive, sustainable, local development” planned to take place from 1-3 October 2018, in Bilbao, Spain, and invite all the partners of the LED World Forum **to discuss strategic alliances between these two fields of localisation of the major international agreements** for sustainable development of our communities and territories.
 - **Constitute a working group composed of interested parties in order to actively contribute to the preparation of the 5th World Forum on LED in 2019**, and strengthen the presence of

³ Members of the Advisory Group are: FMDV, GSEF, ICA, RIPSS and SSE FI. Its purpose is to make its members act collectively to enhance the work of the [UNTFSSSE](#) as set out when it was created in 2013, and to ensure that the orientation of the TFSSE remains aligned with the Taskforce definition.

⁴ CITIES is an International Centre for sharing knowledge and Innovation on SSE. It was created in September 2016, in Montreal, by GSEF and four founding cities: Seoul, Montreal, Bilbao and Barcelona.

the experiences and expertise of SSEF in other thematic axes of the Forum. This would **enable improved linkages between logics and strategies of SSEF and LED** that would respect the strategies and implementation of the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

- **Fully commit to the joint organisation of the Conference on Financing for SSE** planned by the Leading Group for late 2018 or early 2019. This conference plans **to facilitate the introduction of financial systems that support the development of SSE and are adapted to the specificities of each country**. They will both **enhance what SSE can bring to financing for development, and also diversify finance for SSE** through traditional sources of funding as well as innovations, and improved awareness of SSEF needs, and development of appropriate tools.

In the framework of the 4th World Forum on LED, we wish to reaffirm our support for the approaches and inspiring progress achieved in Cabo Verde and the African continent by the SSEF networks and their partners, and commit to:

- **Dialogue and cooperate with the Cabo Verde government, SSEF organisations, and economic and financial actors** to promote their experience at our international meetings and strengthen their cooperation platforms, such as:
 - **The LED platform for implementing the SDGs** launched by several municipalities on the islands of Santiago, Fogo, Santo Antao and coordinated by the national association of municipalities in Cabo Verde and UNDP, and funded by Luxemburg.
 - **The special low-interest loan for refinancing the microfinance institutions in Cabo Verde**, of 100 million \$ECV (907 k€), on the basis of a partnership agreement between the State, SSEF organisations and the 5 biggest commercial banks of the country. This aims to promote financial inclusion, and increase peoples' access to microfinance products, with special emphasis on women and youth.
 - **The signature of a framework agreement for cooperation between the State and the Platform of civil society organisation** in Cabo Verde, where the Platform will support, among others, the transition from informal economy, the capacity strengthening of SSEF organisations, the promotion and integration of SSEF in local economic development, and the localisation of the SDGs.

At a macro level, the government intends to strengthen decentralisation, and make LED and the localisation of the SDGs play a central role.

Cabo Verde is clearly showing its leadership in bringing together the conditions to “scale up” and develop LED pilot projects based on SSEF, by planning to include SSEF programmes in most of the municipalities and islands. This is seen as a necessary condition to accelerate the process of localising the SDGs.

- **Support political, strategic and technical projects to which the African Network for Social and Solidarity Economy (Réseau Africain de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire - RAESS) has jointly committed together with its national and local institutional partners by promoting:**
 - **Advocacy at the level of the African Union and sub-regional bodies** – ECOWAS-UDEAC-SADC...) to include SSEF in their programme as well as developing partnerships with SSEF networks;
 - **Build joint legal and political frameworks for SSEF** at national and local level;
 - **Institutionalise an annual meeting on the role of SSEF and how to use it in the implementation of the SDGs;**
 - **Continue political dialogue with public authorities and local governments, and cooperation and development agencies.**