

Activity Report 2021

Ripecss Intercontinental

1. Introduction

RIPESS is a network that connects social solidarity economy networks from all over the world. Its members are made up of continental networks - Latin America and the Caribbean (RIPESS-LAC), Europe (RIPESS-EU), North America (RIPESS-NA), Africa (RAESS-African SSE Network) and Asia (ASEC-Asian Solidarity Economy Council) - which in turn bring together national and sectoral networks.

RIPESS carries in its genes the will to contribute to systemic and transformative change, showing in particular how the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) provides answers at the local level in the face of a prevailing system that clearly shows its limits. Its members believe in the importance of the globalization of solidarity in order to build and strengthen an economy that puts people and the planet at the center of its activity.

The network was created in 1997 following the first international meeting on the Globalization of Solidarity held in Lima, Peru. It brought together several networks and activists of the social and solidarity economy worldwide to exchange their experiences and practices. The social and solidarity economy was then defined as the set of economic activities and practices with a social purpose and which contribute to building a new way of thinking and doing the economy.

Now in the current global context, RIPESS has become a spokesperson for the diversity of transformative proposals of the SSE with respect to important issues such as: food sovereignty, the promotion of public policies favorable to the SSE, the implementation of the SDGs within the framework of an SSE, the role of women in the SSE, ethical financing, inclusive local development, etc.

2. Contextualisation

The mission and spirit of RIPESS is to promote networking through cooperation among its members, alliances with other movements that share a vision of transformation based on human rights, as well as its active presence in key international organizations and spaces.

The members of the Board of Directors, with the support of the Secretariat implement a strategic plan elaborated by a participatory process with the continental members through virtual working groups that provide spaces for exchange and continuous action on specific themes: awareness raising and training, women and the SSE, youth in the SSE, visibility and institutional recognition, inter-cooperation and networking, mapping and communication.

The 2021-2023 strategic plan includes the Work Areas (TA) that structure its implementation, which are

- AT1) International transcontinental promotion
- AT2) Co-construction of SSE public policies
- AT3) Alliances with other networks
- AT4) Communication and tools for promotion and education in SSE.

One of the main reasons, if not the main reason, is that RIPESS was created to promote the SSE at the global level. This was considered very important to create an enabling environment for the SSE at all levels, from global to local.

RIPESS has relentlessly pursued this goal in every possible global arena. The economic crisis of 2008-2009 created opportunities as people sought other approaches.

This led RIPESS to start working with the ILO in 2009, with other UN agencies in the SSE Working Group, UN events such as RIO+2 in 2012, the 2015 UN General Assembly that adopted the 2030 Agenda, etc.

We now find ourselves in a situation, with the ILO's commitment to the SSE, and a probable UN Resolution recognizing the SSE: a new stage is beginning, since with this international recognition, it will create the opportunity to integrate the SSE in the countries, as an alternative to the neoliberal globalization we are experiencing. The work will continue to be very difficult, but its nature will change in part, since our national organizations will have a much more favorable environment.



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3. Activities - 2021

In 2021, RIPESS participated in key dialogue spaces to advocate the need for a favorable environment for the SSE so that it can develop its full transformative potential. The following activities will highlight the results of RIPESS' political advocacy at the international level but also at the continental level to open new doors towards a United Nations resolution on the SSE.



RIPESS, in its role as UNTFSSSE observer, has participated in the UNTFSSSE retreat held from December 6 to 10. This event was a great occasion to review the progress made since the previous retreat in November 2019 in Trento. Previous priorities were reaffirmed, such as supporting the process for a UN Resolution, knowledge sharing and education.

The RIPESS proposal to regionalize the activities of the Task Force has become a priority on the Task Force's agenda. First meetings are planned for 2022 between continental members and regional organizations such as ECLAC for Latin America and the Caribbean, ESCAP for Asia or the African Union for Africa.

RIPESS contributed to the SSE Encyclopedia, to be published in 2022.

The working group is also in the final stages of publishing a new position paper on SSE and the SDGs. The new paper will provide many examples of progress made in the SSE to achieve the SDGs.

International
Labour
Organization



RIPESS members, or RIPESS directly, have maintained relations with the ILO since 2009. As the ILO is the main UN agency supporting the Working Group, deep relationships have been developed since 2015.

The ILO SSE Academy was held for the first time in October 2010 in Turin, Italy. This was the main outcome of the ILO regional meeting held in October 2009 in Johannesburg. Nancy Neamtan of the Chantier de l'économie sociale de Québec, who was then coordinator of RIPESS (2009 to 2012), participated in that meeting, as did Madani Coumaré, who was also a member of the RIPESS Governing Board. RIPESS members have participated in all the academies, including the 12th Academy, organized by the Portuguese Ministry of Labor, Solidarity and Social Economy from November 15 to 26, 2021.

All these previous activities and promotion of the SSE have resulted in the fact that for the first time at its 103rd annual conference, the SSE will be formally on the agenda of the ILO global conference to be held in 2022, "VI. Decent work and social and solidarity economy (general debate)".

PACT FOR IMPACT
A GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



RIPESS participated in the launch of the Pact for Impact organized by France in July 2019 in Paris with the creation of a Global Alliance. The creation of the Alliance was delayed due to changes in the internal politics of France and Covid. RIPESS co-facilitated discussions together with some people from the French Ministry of SSE from March to December 2021. This Alliance is formed by a group of States committed to promoting SSE as an important approach to achieving the SDGs and will be instrumental in leading and supporting the UN Resolution for SSE to be presented to the UN General Assembly in 2022.



**United
Nations**

**High-Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development**

The High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) was a very relevant event in terms of advocacy for RIPESS. In July 2021, an official side event was organized with great success, together with the Global Platform for the Right to the City. It featured speakers from UNTFSSSE, the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism of the UN Committee on Food Security and Nutrition, the ILO Cooperative Division and WIEGO, on the theme "Overcoming Inequalities through the Recovery of Covid-19". Concrete proposals were put on the UN table, and RIPESS members and networks contributed to the proposal for the inclusion of SSE in some Voluntary National Reviews.



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PROJECT - ADVOCACY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SSE AS A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE ODS IN A POST-COVID CONTEXT

The Catalan Cooperation Agency has enabled the development of the advocacy project for the promotion of the SSE as a strategy to achieve the SDGs in the Post-COVID context. It was achieved, with this support, to improve the integration of SSE in the agendas of the main international actors working on development strategies (institutions, and networks), increasing the role of RIPESS in international advocacy activities, in a post-COVID-19 context that has been demonstrated in previous activities.

On the one hand, dialogue, co-construction and consultations were promoted between SSE networks and local / national / sub-regional governments to develop policies and programs favorable to the development of the SSE, with an SDG perspective. To this end, intercontinental webinars were held on "Beyond the emergence of Covid-19: building collective and lasting responses through the SSE" and "Towards strengthening SSE ecosystems at all levels".

In addition, we supported the strengthening of SSE networks and actors (communities, cooperatives, women's and youth associations, etc.) to enable them to put forward advocacy proposals, including the SDG perspective. The results of these activities have been advocacy tools to be replicated at local levels as advocacy guides.



Since September 2016 RIPESS has been a member of the GSEF Steering Committee.

In October 2021, at the GSEF 2021 in Mexico City, a joint launch activity was held: Building and Rebuilding an Inclusive Community. It has been agreed that these activities will be held in Asia, Latin America and Africa with the participation of our continental members.

Experiences and practices based on the principles of social and solidarity economy were presented, aiming to build and rebuild in the communities most affected by pandemic situations an inclusive community that allows participation and recognition of the diversity that compose it and allows personal and collective development, in which everyone has a place, even with their differences.

4. Conclusion

2021 has been a year of significant progress, both externally and internally, providing a solid foundation for the implementation of the strategic plan for the next two years, and for dealing with the pandemic context.

In parallel, each continental network experienced its own developments and challenges. In particular, there have been significant changes on the Latin American and Caribbean side in terms of their governing bodies and the emphasis on developing more "bottom-up" approaches; and on the RAESS side with some governance and technical capacity challenges, particularly affected by the inability to meet face-to-face, which is essential for this network and this continent.

The coming year will be symbolic for RIPESS, as the network celebrates its 25th anniversary. On this occasion, one of the projects is to launch a dynamic of "intercontinental dialogues and positionings of the post-Covid-19 transition", to foster exchanges of visions among members, joint projections of our global movement into the future, and to enable the production of new materials for advocacy. A new website should also be developed. Another key dynamic in international advocacy for the first half of 2025 will be the organization of sub-regional UNTFSSSE activities with RAESS, RIPESS LAC and ASEC.

Regarding the challenges for the coming year: Internally, it will probably be the active involvement of the participants in the various intercontinental networks and the leadership of the co-leaders of these networks, as well as the capacity of the technical teams to support it, both at the continental and intercontinental level. Externally, important governance changes by the GSEF, and the new international coalition, have changed the landscape somewhat, which should accelerate the development of alliances with other international movements and networks.



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