

# REPORT - RIPESS AT GSEF

May 2023, Dakar



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Intercontinental network for the  
promotion of social solidarity economy  
Réseau intercontinental de promotion  
de l'économie sociale solidaire  
Red intercontinental de promoción  
de la economía social solidaria



ripeSS

Thanks to RIPESS Europe, RIPESS LAC, RIPESS Intercontinental and RAESS for the contributions without which this report would not be possible. Thanks to the people who were part of this meeting.

Report collected, edited, translated and designed by Andrea Echeverría with a majority of her photographs.

August 2023

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## Brief introduction by the Executive Secretary:

RIPESS is part of the DNA of the GSEF. We were already present at the Seoul meetings in 2013 and 2014. Our participation became much more intense in early 2015, when the various preparatory committees and commissions for the GSEF 2016 in Montreal were set up. These beginnings allowed us to understand that we shared a common vision of the SSE and that we were interested in working together to build a global movement for the promotion and development of the Social Solidarity Economy. That is why we agreed to join the GSEF, because of its founding element: a Forum that brings together local authorities and structures. We had the firm conviction, which we continue to share, that the fertile ground for the development of the SSE is at the local level, in the cities and towns of the world, where joint solutions can be found through solidarity.

For the organisation of the Forum in Dakar 2023, we were able to bring together representatives from three continents and support the organisation of the Youth Caravan from Bamako to Dakar. This report contains key elements of the workshops we organised and where we were an active part. I would like to highlight the importance of the workshop with and about young people organised with RAESS, the African Network of Social Solidarity Economy. The conclusions of this space are our best roadmap for the planning of our main axes with the future generations of the SSE in Africa. The issues of social protection and gender have been key to look at our horizons with the strategic alliances and their important advances in Latin America. Finally, the prolific participation of RIPESS Europe has shown us the progress in public policies around the SSE, its challenges and obstacles to implementation in the European landscape.

Our aim as an intercontinental network is to continue our actions within this space and to ensure that the grassroots of the Social Solidarity Economy are the pillars of the future development of the GSEF.

*Sandra Moreno Cadena*

*RIPESS Intercontinental Executive Secretary*



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# RIPESS in GSEF

**DAKAR, 2-6 MAY 2023.**

Since 2016, RIPESS has been on the Board of the Global Social Solidarity Economy Forum (GSEF) and has participated in these forums over the years with different levels of work and representation.

This year 2023, it could not be less and RIPESS has been represented in the last edition by a number of people from different parts of the world and the movement:

- Intercontinental Secretariat
  - Sandra Moreno, executive secretary; Andrea Echeverría, communications officer; Judith Hitchman, intercontinental co-coordinator. Aicha Belassir, previous Executive Secretary was also there.
- RIPESS LAC
  - Ángeles Carrión, technical secretary.
- RIPESS Europe
  - Jason Nardi, general delegate; Andrea Rodríguez, project manager, Bérénice Dondeyne, co-president of Mouvement pour l'Economie Solidaire Occitanie.
- RAESS
  - Madani Coumaré, president; Elise Pierrette Mpoung Meno, general delegate. In addition, on behalf of RAESS and given that the event was held in Africa, around 15 representatives from member countries of the network such as Morocco, Ivory Coast, Togo, Mali, Cameroon or the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We were able to learn first-hand about the different SSE trends around the world today thanks to the offer in the GSEF programme. We also took the opportunity to share continental work axes, position common objectives and bring the RIPESS activity to the rest of the GSEF attendees.

The workshops that these entities offered at the Forum are detailed below. We hope that it will serve not only as an archive but also as a tool to increase articulation from the Intercontinental Secretariat.

### Context of the issue

The JeunESse (Youth) Caravan is a set of activities validated and approved by the GSEF and organised by RAESS, the African network of Ripess. It is a project that has allowed young people to have an important place and responsibility within the 6th Edition of the Global Forum of the SSE (GSEF) 2023, whose caravans have been identified and launched.

In the face of the many socio-economic and environmental problems and shocks that humanity is experiencing, it is important to review our ways of working and propose innovative alternative solutions that take into account the diverse needs of communities and peoples. In Africa, young people under the age of 35 make up two thirds of the population. In the face of these challenges and the need for young people to be inventive in building the future of their countries, SSE can be seen as a development model that focuses on social and economic needs through solidarity, ethics, sharing, equity and democracy.

### Content and participation

This Caravan initiative was born out of the organisers' desire to involve young people more in decision-making regarding the social and solidarity economy. Organisations, associations and groups supporting SSE initiatives were contacted through the focal points of the networks. In Mali, it was the National Network of Support for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (Renapess-Mali) that chose the caravaners, who left from the Bamako district town hall, before crossing the country westwards to Senegal via the Kidira border.

Around 150 young people took part in the caravan. The caravans were contacted through the focal points of each country: First of all, the focal point of the country in question will make a call or a contact meeting with the relevant actors of the caravan for the orientation of the Pre-Forum Jeun'ESS, i.e. the objectives of the caravaners and their expectations as representatives of a delegation.

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The trip took place in a good mood, with caravanners singing and dancing on the bus. Many alliances were forged, especially between young and old, and discussions were held on African unity and the social and solidarity economy. During the trip, a climate of solidarity and fairness prevailed. It was a time for sharing and discovering new points of view, sharing experiences and getting in touch with other Caravanners.

We participated in all the activities of the GSEF Dakar 2023. Starting with the JóvenESS preforum, the MujerESS preforum and the forum itself. The Malian caravanners also participated brilliantly in several panels to make this caravan an opportunity to acquire ideas.

In addition, there was room for moments of exchange and conviviality, such as a march in Dakar in which each participant carried a flag of their territory. Young people; activists and militants, working in their home countries to change the status quo. In addition, there were moments of entertainment featuring the traditions and folklore of each country. In addition, RENAPESS, the Malian member of RIPESS, had a stand during the entire GSEF forum where people representing RAESS could sell their products.

### **Recommendations for the future**

These people are already preparing for the next GSEF World Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy, to be held in two years' time in Bordeaux (France): the future holds many surprises and constraints, and together we must create a framework for young people to exchange ideas.

Listen [here](#) (in French) to the first-person testimonies of two of the caravan participating in the Ripess IC podcast section.





Some photographs were taken by Mahamadou TRAORÉ (RENAPESS).



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**Workshop:**

Young people for a fair economic transition

2 may 2023

**Andrea  
Rodríguez,  
project mngr  
Ripess EU**

### Context of the issue

The population pyramid in Africa is the opposite of the rest of the world: Africa is the youngest continent in the world, with two thirds of its population under the age of 35; and the Social and Solidarity Economy, as in the rest of the world, has a future there.

This workshop, organised by RAESS and RIPESS Europe, was based on a model in which interaction with the audience was essential and in which, after the panellists, everyone could share their opinions and experiences. This is why Andrea Rodriguez played a more dynamic role. All in all, it was a source of inspiration and a step forward for young people from all over the world, who were able to share their demands and make their voices heard for a fairer world.

### Content and participation of the attendees

First of all, we had the participation as speakers of young people from several African countries, including Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau and Niger:

Mauritania raised two key points: support for cooperatives in their structuring as SSE actors and the lack of a draft law on SSE in the country, which allowed us to reflect on public policy frameworks for the SSE.

However, Guinea Bissau shared an experience in the field of entrepreneurship, followed by other countries in the fields of youth empowerment, unemployment, youth migration and the different situations of public policies in each country.

This shows us the importance of this exchange, the importance of getting in touch and sharing experiences, taking into account the aspect of solidarity.

These countries spoke about their experiences, but then, through an assembly and a participatory format, we saw hundreds of young people take the floor.

**The photo on the cover of this report comes from this workshop.**

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## Recommendations for the future

With this in mind, we asked ourselves what initiatives we could share and develop together, and among them were:

- A strong demand for a training structure run by young people for young people;
- A youth monitoring committee within the GSEF and the organisation of a financial fund for youth initiatives;
- Agro-ecology and consumption of local products were also strongly defended,
- as well as issues such as migration and gender equality to be addressed in our organisations, and, above all, the need to pool and share support and intervention tools.

Finally, it should be noted that the decolonial perspective was very present during the activity and that South-South cooperation was strongly reactivated. Moreover, this group of young people was able to participate by adding their demands to the final manifesto of the Forum.

So, in general terms, it is worth highlighting that we demand a SSE in which young people have their place, in which the voice of all young people is heard and taken into account equally. And, without a doubt, we strongly demand that in future forums the issue of youth be taken into account as a central, priority and cross-cutting area for each of the themes and not as a "pre-forum" area, because putting life at the centre means claiming responsibility for each of the issues that concern us.



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**Workshop/conference:**

How to take gender into account in the social and solidarity economy

3 may 2023

**Andrea  
Rodríguez,  
project mnggr  
Ripess EU**

### Context of the issue

Interventions from the various Feminist experiences and practices that were shared with the aim of tracing routes towards new horizons in which gender equality and overcoming patriarchy are present.

### Content and participation of the attendees

*The Social and Solidarity Economy and the gender perspective, positions and concrete experiences.*

For some time now, different SSE organisations have been pointing out that the economy cannot be social and solidarity-based if it is not feminist. These two currents reformulate the concept of economy that goes beyond the market and, undoubtedly, this economy that we want to reclaim or rather recover - because before capitalism there was an economy that was simply responsible for ensuring the material basis for the welfare of people and the sustainability of life - has to be built in diversity, together with all peoples and all genders, so that it can guarantee political and material rights for all people who inhabit this planet and all its ecosystems.

Through this activity at the GSEF, RIPESS Europe was able to share the different activities that it has implemented and that many of its members are also developing. On the one hand, the protocol against aggressions that seeks to build a shared space of security and trust for all people and aims to be a tool for individual and collective (self-)defence against the different oppressions and/or aggressions of the system that are manifested in our work spaces and within our organisations. It arises from the need for self-education and collective self-protection, and seeks, through mutual support, to put an end to the normalisation of aggressions and the complicity of silence by creating a dialogue between all people. It also addressed the implementation of the Care Commission, a body that is being joined by the different member organisations of RIPESS Europe, and which is responsible for the application of the protocol and its revision, as well as for implementing different awareness-raising tasks, etc.

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Weer Bi presented data on the weight of women in the Senegalese informal economy, the economic activities they mainly carry out and the opportunities they find in Social and Solidarity Economy initiatives to alleviate their labour and economic precariousness. She concluded with recommendations to reinforce the economic and social resilience of women: reinforcement of the management capacities of women involved in the social and solidarity economy, access to financing tools, implementation of a programme to support women in the acquisition of land and social housing.

From the Spanish experience of the Juana Millán School for Women Entrepreneurs, data were presented that allow us to understand the situation of inequality experienced by women who wish to become entrepreneurs in Spain and the proposed solution proposed by the school's experience. A school based on the principles and values of the Social and Solidarity Economy, the Feminist Economy and the Management of Collective Processes.

And finally, Credal presented a project it has been working on for a year and a half. This project is supported by Wallonia and the Ministry of Christie Morreale, which is responsible, among other things, for the social economy and women's rights. In the framework of this project, Credal led a study on gender issues in the social economy in Wallonia, written by Elodie Dessy, researcher at the Centre de l'Economie Sociale de Liège. The study also aims to analyse the trajectories of associations and cooperatives according to whether they were created by women, men or mixed. This study reveals that gender is a very little explored issue in the social economy, and that several actors use strategies of denial of inequalities between men and women, arguing that there are more women working in the sector (74%) and that the values shared by the actors are sufficiently inclusive. Building on the recommendations made by the author, Crédal coordinated the creation of a toolkit to help social enterprises integrate gender issues into their practices. For example, the toolkit includes tools on the governance of structures, the sharing of care tasks within volunteering, and inclusive communication.

You can find the study and the tools in [this link](#).

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## Participants

On the one hand, there was the participation of Tangente, a Spanish Co-operative Group that brings together 13 companies with more than 100 professionals who have been working together for more than 20 years on projects to improve the quality of life of people, the social and community environment, and the environment based on co-operative values. Tangente offers services in participation and community work, psychology and health, consultancy, gender and equity, training, entrepreneurship, agro-ecology and collaborative housing; and proposes experiences of participatory democracy, co-responsibility and citizen involvement and sustainable development at the local level. She has experience in municipal policies and technical development in project management with public and private entities.

On the other hand, Crédal is a Belgian financial cooperative with a history of more than 40 years that offers three types of services: financing (personal and professional microcredit and loans to social enterprises), support for entrepreneurial projects (individual and collective entrepreneurship) and investments (shares in the cooperative). Crédal has developed a specialisation in women's entrepreneurship through various programmes to promote women's leadership, offering them specific support and financing. Crédal is very active in the social economy in Wallonia, supporting the creation and/or development of associations and cooperatives with credit facilities and helping them to consolidate their position.

Weer Bi, a Senegalese monthly scientific bulletin on the economics of extractive resources, the environment and migration, also participated in the roundtable, with a specific line on the Network of women and youth in the energy sector [REGEP].

And finally, RIPeSS Europe, the Intercontinental Network of Social and Solidarity Economy, a network that is composed of 42 organisations in 21 countries and aims to make the SSE visible and promote it through cooperation among its members and the development of Public Policies. RIPESS is making enormous efforts to change the capitalist and patriarchal work culture and to develop a feminist perspective not only discursively and outwardly, but also through an internal organisational review.

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## Recommendations for the future

### Towards a Social, Solidarity and Feminist Economy.

The Dakar experience, the voices, projects and analyses shared during the Forum place us in a global panorama marked by uncertainty, climate emergencies, the destruction of ecosystems, migratory crises, global care chains... It is clear that the current mechanisms for generating and distributing wealth increase the levels of social inequality, leaving more and more of the population on the margins of the basic necessities. These margins continue to grow and are the territory in which more and more women live.

Collaboration between projects such as those presented at the workshop must be the seed of a transformation that is essential, the seed of an economic model that puts people and the planet at the centre, and that this transformation in economic relations is led by women who set up successful and ambitious projects in strategic sectors, such as the scientific industry, the primary livestock and agro-ecological sector, in sectors such as renewable energies, the ecological rehabilitation of buildings, the reuse, recycling and management of waste, culture, the relocation of the production of essential goods (health, textiles, food, technology. ...), care services, projects that support a dignified life for all.

It is also essential that the social economy takes on board the issues of inclusion and gender equality, and that it can be an area where all people are equal. Concretely, this means that social economy actors should be trained on the subject, use tools, that social enterprises have a strict parity of men and women in their decision-making spheres, and that statistics are produced in order to have data on this inclusion so that we can continue to improve.



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**Lecture:**

The social and solidarity economy, a tool and strategy to guarantee universal social protection - The right of women in the SSE to social protection.

Intervention 1/3

4th May '23

**Elise Pierrette  
Memong  
Meno, Déléguée  
générale de  
RAESS**

## Context of the issue

How international, regional and national instruments for the protection of women's rights facilitate access to social protection.

Many examples come from the experience of our colleague Elise Pierrette in Cameroon, as she is President of RESSCAM - Réseau National de l'Economie Sociale Solidaire du Cameroun.

## Content of the presentation

- In most cases there are relevant social security provisions;
- Others mention provisions that protect the rights of women and girls in terms of access to education, land and improved income;
- The insurance schemes set up in Cameroon for SSE actors "voluntary insurance" are not very attractive to women because of their complex calculation mechanism and the products covered, which are inadequate in relation to their needs;
- None of these instruments mentions social protection by name or in a comprehensive way;
- Some practices adopted by women in Africa, such as the various self-managed funds they organise themselves, allow them to combine social security and social services.
- Suggestions for improvement :
- It is important to contribute to the extension of these good practices and to strengthen the institutionalisation of social protection by complementing existing instruments or adopting new ones;
  - Take advantage of existing opportunities, such as the ILO/Country Partnership for Decent Work, which exists in Cameroon and undoubtedly exists elsewhere...

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## Participation

The other panellists shared the relevance of the analysis and added to the list of existing instruments, in particular those they promote. SSE units contribute to the extension of social protection by creating decent jobs through innovative mechanisms such as self-managed funds that operate on the basis of solidarity and social cohesion and the establishment of a value chain approach that boosts production.

## Recommendations for the future

Organise advocacy for the implementation of funding mechanisms adapted to SSE actors in Africa, in particular social protection is little known and weak.





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**Lecture:**

The Social and Solidarity Economy, the path to social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Intervention 2/3*

4th May '23

**Ángeles Carrión,  
Red INSPIR LAC,  
technical  
secretary RPESS  
LAC**

### Context of the issue

In a context where the economic system promotes consumerism and the accumulation of capital and categorises human beings on the basis of their capacity to consumption, transforming the less favoured population into a resource that can be exploited and deprived of rights; the Social and Solidarity Economy creates a solid path to connect work with equity and social justice. To this end, it is important to strengthen SSE initiatives within trade unions and workers' guilds and to ensure that their demands are not based on the satisfaction of needs created by a capitalist system, but are demands that are consistent with the principles of the social and solidarity economy, for example:

### Content of the presentation

Promoting food sovereignty as a right, access to alternative and preventive medicine within public health systems, the active participation of workers in decision-making within business structures, the re-appropriation of the most important productive resources (land, water, money and knowledge), environmental sustainability, the right to time being shared with family that cannot and should not be replaced with overtime pay,... In other words, demands that lead us towards the Buen Vivir for all.

Apart from the contributions of Ángeles Carrión, the other participants in this presentation were Santiago Fischer, WSM - We Social Movements; Dramane Batchabi, ILO - International Labour Organisation and Ernestina Luján, domestic worker and representative of INSP!R in Peru.

### Audience participation

The comments and questions from the audience that day were mainly of a practical nature: How to incorporate this vision of social protection in our SSE entities?

More political ones: To what extent is social protection not something that should be provided by states?

The debate could be a long one, but there was limited time.

## Recommendations for the future

To consolidate these demands requires structural changes in the system that can only be promoted by the implementation of public policies that strengthen the citizen participation of actors in the solidarity economy. Having a resolution on decent work by the ILO and the adoption of the resolution to promote the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development by the UN is a great step towards achieving this objective and although we are aware that there is still a long way to go, networking at the regional level, as is being done by the INSPIR Network and RIPESS LAC, is a great strategy to sustain these social struggles and generate spaces for advocacy, reflection and exchange of experiences that will create and share mechanisms for the implementation of these resolutions in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The creation of laws and ordinances at the local level will allow the social and solidarity economy to be strengthened and become a real alternative to achieve decent work and social protection for all.



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**Conference:**

The social and solidarity economy, the path to social protection *Intervention 3/3*

4 may 2023

**Judith Hitchmann,**  
Int.Co-  
Coordinator,  
RIPESS Int. &  
Urgenci Int.  
Network

### Context of the issue

Following the success of the 2022 International Labour Conference of the ILO in June 2022, which adopted the Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, and the passing of the UN Resolution A/RES/77/281 in support of Social and Solidarity economy as a significant means of working towards sustainability and social, economic and environmental justice, the theme this year's ILC addresses that of Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Security.

The current global situation is that of a quadruple crisis: Covid-19, conflicts, climate and cost of living. This is all inter-related, and is seriously aggravating existing inequalities in our societies. Many jobs lost during the Covid-19 pandemic have not been recreated, and many more around the world have been pushed into the gig economy, the informal economy, or lower paid jobs. This is the reality behind 'improved' job statistics. It is unacceptable and not viable in terms of human dignity or justice that many workers now have to take on 2 or even 3 different jobs just to be able to afford to pay the rent. There is an increase in refugees, IDP and many more falling below the poverty line. SSE is a powerful means of approaching many different solutions, as it relocalises a more sustainable and human-centred economy.

It can cover all different aspects of society, and if joined up through policies and legislation, can truly provide some light at the end of the tunnel. It can cover all societies' needs including Community land management; community currencies and finance, and banking; community energy production and management; community care and health management; community water management and remunicipalisation; community run transport systems; community education and support systems; community culture and arts centres and activities and community radio and alternative media centres. It is only by bringing these various dimensions together that SSE can be truly enacted as a paradigm change-maker.

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## Content of the presentation

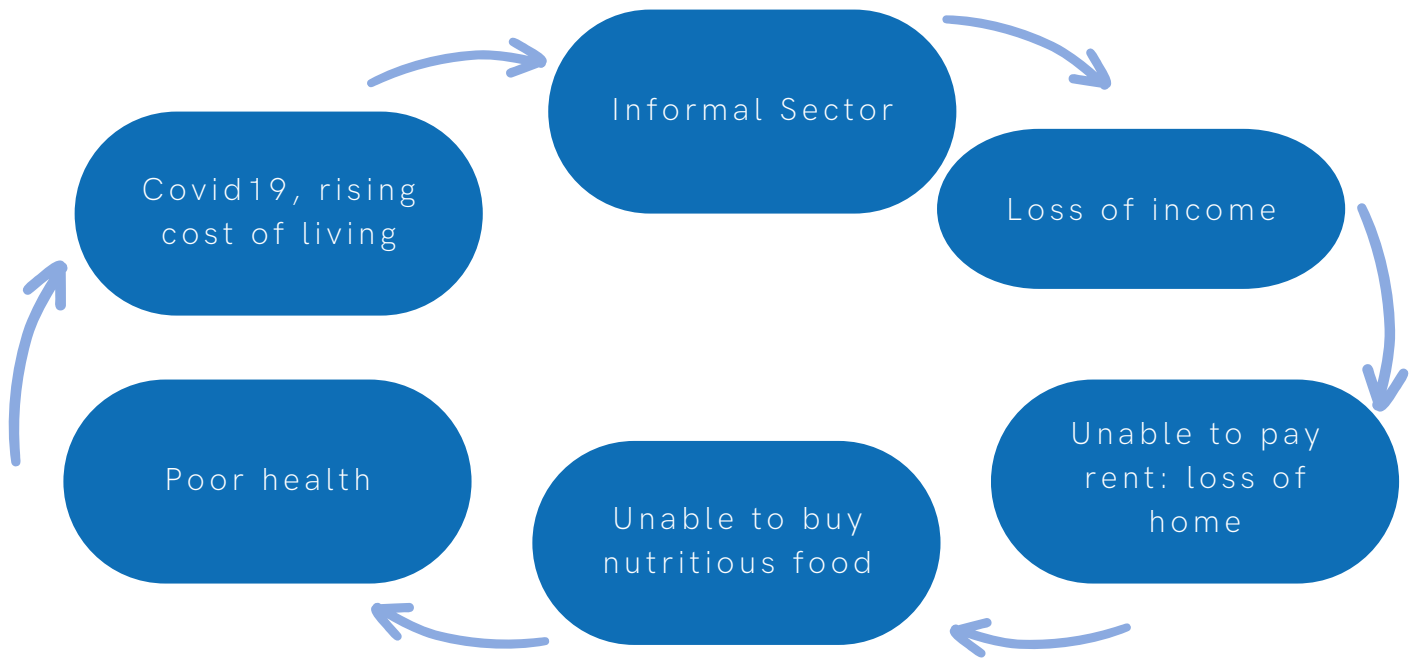
While the idea of a food safety net/food social security may seem highly innovative and challenging, it is important to note that it is something that has existed for as long as 20 years. It was originally pioneered in Brazil as the Bolsa Familia. This programme was rolled out by the Lula government in 2003, and had significant impacts on hunger, stunting, children's school attendance and child labour; it was implemented by Graziano Da Silva, who became Director of the FAO, where he also supported social movement's implication in policy making and bottom-up solutions. His book is a tribute to how the programme was rolled out.

The current multiple crises have severely aggravated the situation of hunger in the world. According to the Global Crisis Report published 3rd May 2023, it is estimated that **about 258 million people in 58 food crisis countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity** (IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent) and required urgent food assistance in 2022. Figures for those suffering from malnutrition and hunger in western countries are also rising fast, and are more diffuse and difficult to evaluate, but based on those now using food banks in countries like the UK and France, it is probably now close to 20% of the population. Many people have had to make cruel choices whether to heat their homes or buy food. The quality of the food that families are buying is also considerably lower than before the war in Ukraine: there is a far higher percentage of people who are buying cheap prepared industrial food rather than healthy agroecological/organic food.

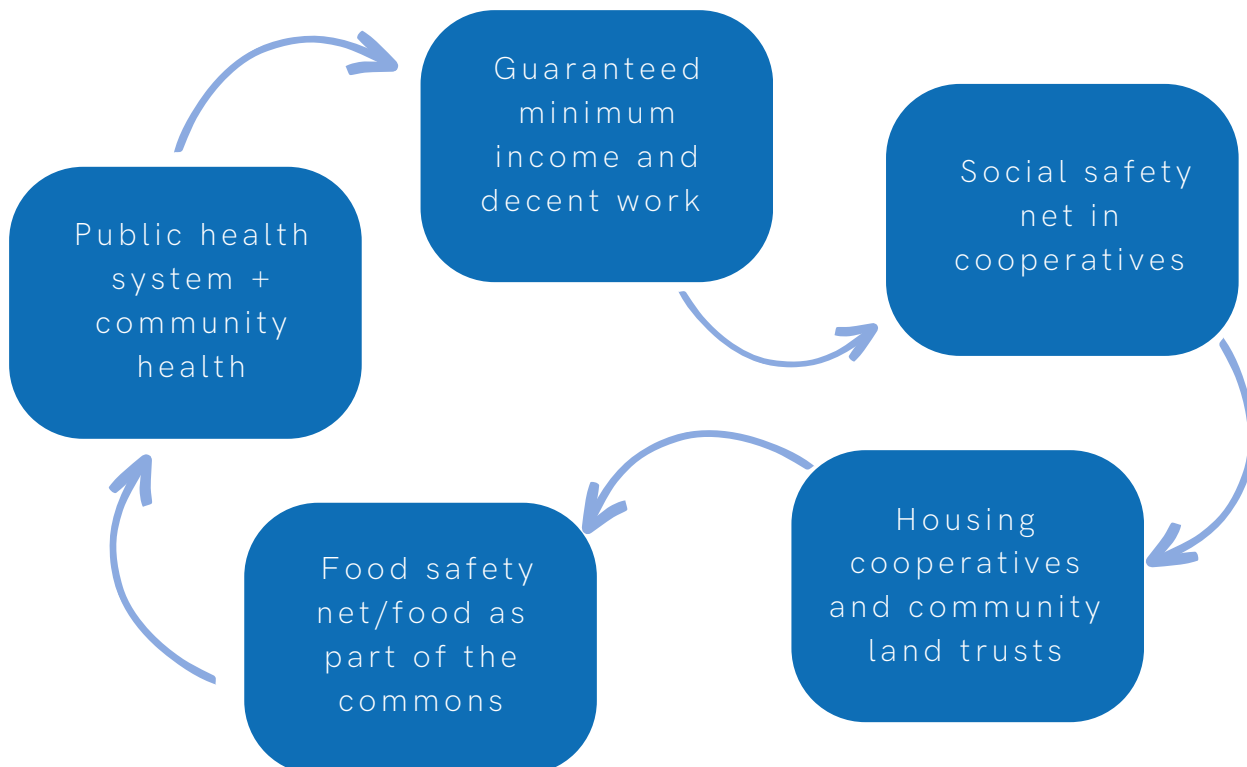
Many organic co-ops and other organic shops across Europe have closed. The impact of this lowering of quality will soon take its toll in terms of health issues, as replacing nutritious food with mere calories results in far higher rates of obesity and Non Communicable diseases (NCDs). And most food banks are now corporate-controlled and providing industrially prepared food, which also leads to negative health outcomes.

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The following is a visual description of the current vicious circle of the shadow economy (Hitchman, 2022):



This can be turned into a virtuous circle through a well-adapted SSE policy, with special emphasis on social security in general, and more specifically in this case on the introduction of a food safety net (Hitchman 2022).



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## Recommendations for the future

Several cities in France have started to implement a food safety net (Montpellier, Lyon...). This needs to be done in close association with Local Government, and can take the form of a top-up card with 150€ (as an example) or local currency of monthly credit; there can be conditionalities, such as stipulating that this money be spent on local agroecological food from producers either at farmers' markets or co-operative supermarkets. This approach and a wider call for a food safety net/social security could and should be part of the ILC resolution, as it is also a concrete form of implementation of Social and Solidarity Economy and means of achieving SDG 1 & 2.



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**Conference:**

SSE and promotion of decent jobs at the heart of territories:

Co-building public policies for collective and sustainable economies that create decent jobs for young people and women.

5 may 2023

**Elise Pierrette  
Memong Meno,  
RAESS General  
Delegate**

### Context of the issue

The example of a partnership between RESSCAM and the Bangangté municipality (in the West of Cameroon, in the Ndé Department), for the promotion of the SSE in the municipality with a view to creating decent jobs for young people and women.

Another example is the commune of Galim, where an agreement with RESSCAM was also formalised less than a year ago.

### Content of the presentation

Pierrette presented the socio-economic situation of this commune, which has a high rate of unemployed young people and women, but is rich in natural resources.

She then shared RESSCAM's strategy, which consisted of raising the Municipal Council's awareness of the legal and institutional framework governing the SSE. A resolution was passed by the Municipal Council granting RESSCAM discharge for its support of OESs and UESs. The support work has begun with some convincing results, as illustrated by a practical case:

- 01 Joint Initiative Group (APESE) of 20 young people, including 13 girls, which produces artemisia over an area of 3 hectares, dries it, bags it and sells it;
- An annual income of 20 million CFA francs, or 1,000,000/person/year, which works out at an average of 84,000/year, or twice the minimum wage;
- 11 young people have taken out voluntary insurance with the CNPS, and 09 are still hesitating.

### Participation of the audience

Strong appreciation from the audience, showing their interest in a question-and-answer session.

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## Recommendations for the future

The challenges remain:

- Systematisation of the value chain approach in the various speculations;
- Promoting the culture of social protection among SSE players, who must make it a right;
- The extension of social security to all members of UESS, cf. the Law.
- The strengthening of financing mechanisms adapted to their needs (activities and protection) to encourage the scaling up of their activities.
- The development by the Town Hall of appropriate social protection programmes (childcare, rest areas, community mutual insurance, etc.)..





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## Workshop

Development of an ecosystem for the valorisation of social impact and social utility.

Dialogue on the support and promotion of actors of the social and solidarity economy

5th may '23

**Bérenice  
Dondeye,  
RIPESS EU.**

## Context of the issue

Developing an ecosystem for assessing social impact and social utility: The question of social impact/utility assessment has become a key issue in the social and solidarity economy. Despite the emergence of projects, methods, tools and experiments on the subject, there is no real common vision at European or international level. MES France (Mouvement pour l'Économie Solidaire) runs an Erasmus programme with Ripess Europe, the Italian network RIES, APES Haut de France, MES Occitanie, Concertes in Belgium, Unipso with the support of the Long Life Learning Platform and the CEI called DEVISUS to approach this reality and provide solutions.

## Content of the presentation

The aim of this workshop was to work on the dialogue between local authorities, the public sector and social and solidarity organisations, especially from the point of view of supporting and promoting the SSE. The assessment of social impact and social utility is a key issue in building this dialogue and provides a basis for long-term cooperation. It opens up avenues of collective and local engagement for social/societal transformation, whether in terms of social justice, citizenship (power to act), economic democracy or taking climate issues into account.

The other speakers were Nicole Miquel-Belaud, from Toulouse Métropole; Ludovic Thomas, Head of the TAg35 Incubator in Rennes, France; Daniel Gagné, Director General of Regional Economic Strategies, Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Quebec and a representative of the Directorate for the Promotion of SSE, Ministry of Microfinance and SSE of Senegal.

As an example in the theme of the workshop, Bérenice presented the DEVISUS programme, which aims to:

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- To build a shared culture among the partners involved, in order to develop benchmarks and guidelines that can be disseminated across Europe.
  - Improve the competences of teachers, trainers and trainers working in the field of SSE.
  - Strengthen alliances within the SSE between different networks to promote the experience of SSE synergies on the issue of social impact and usefulness.

The aim was to highlight 5 monitoring points by placing the intervention within the framework of the theme chosen by the Dakar GSEF: the social and solidarity economy and the informal economy.

1. Social utility/social impact assessment is first and foremost a "political" and "collective" issue.
2. There is a need to create local ecosystems of social utility/social impact assessment.
3. The recognition of a pluralistic approach to social utility/social impact is fundamental.
4. Social utility/social impact assessment must be owned by stakeholders, who have the right to develop their own methodologies (objectives, methods and tools).
5. Social utility/social impact assessment must take into account the legitimacy of those directly affected, i.e. citizens (beneficiaries, producers, consumers).

At a time when stakeholders are asked to justify their impact measurements, we can question these mandates and re-examine the question of evaluation in the SSE as an organisational and inter-organisational process (value chains), shared with public institutions and citizen beneficiaries. In a way, the evaluation of social utility/social impact is easily linked in our territories to the notion of general interest defended by the public sector (redistributive economy) and to the new notion of "common goods".

The aim of the DEVISUS programme is to build a common corpus of methodologies for assessing social utility and social impact and to prefigure an Erasmus Key 2 programme in 2024-2026, which will make it possible to develop training for technicians, trainers and actors in the SSE in Europe and to exert pressure on European and international institutions.

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## Participants and audience participation

The audience was largely composed of SSE actors from various African countries and young entrepreneurs in solidarity. We noted that the involvement of citizens in the theme of the evaluation was widely applauded, no doubt because it reflects the way in which initiatives are organised on the ground.

## Recommendations for the future

Evaluating necessarily implies supporting structures through co-constructed systems that favour a multidisciplinary approach and, of course, this strategy makes it possible to improve their strategic and political positioning as well as their practices and results, while reinforcing dialogue with public policies. The development of a collective culture of evaluation in the SSE reinforces the recognition of the SSE and enables it to defend its uniqueness in the face of the major challenges facing our world.



## Conference:

How can to put in place public policies for the Social and Solidarity Economy?

5 may 2023

**Elise Pierrette  
Memong  
Meno, General  
Delegate of  
RAESS**

## Context of the issue

Public policies for the promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

## Content of the presentation

RESSCAM (National Network of Social Economy of Cameroon) participated in the adoption of the Law on Social and Solidarity Economy in Cameroon. Its strategy was to support the creation of the Network of Parliamentarians for the Promotion of the SSE in Cameroon. This facilitated the adoption of the law that had been in the pipeline for about ten years. Subsequently, RESSCAM established partnerships with local authorities to help them promote the SSE in their areas.

## Participation of the other speakers

The other participants were talking about their public policies, but Pierrette had to interrupt to go to a RAESS hearing.

## Recommendations for the future

Public policies are important for boosting the SSE. Now we need to advocate that these public policies also address the social protection dimension.





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[info@ripress.org](mailto:info@ripress.org) | [www.ripress.org](http://www.ripress.org)



Amb la col·laboració de l'Agència Catalana de  
Cooperació de la Generalitat de Catalunya



**Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament**



**Generalitat  
de Catalunya**