

Activity report 2022 RIPESS Intercontinental



riposs

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

March 2023

RIPESS Intercontinental



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The capitalist economic system and the entire cultural framework that accompanies it have developed in contradiction with the two material dependencies that make life possible. They ignore the existence of physical limits on the planet and conceal and underestimate the time required for daily social reproduction. They develop without taking limits into account, at the cost of destroying precisely what we need to maintain ourselves over time. They are based on a belief that is dangerous for the future of human beings: that of a false autonomy, both in relation to nature and to each other.

Yayo Herrero, 'Ecofeminist perspectives for a just and sustainable world'. 2013.

Introduction



The year 2022 was marked, on the one hand, by a very favourable international environment for the SSE, largely caused by the various global crises (climate, health, war in Ukraine, etc.) and their impact on neoliberalism, long supply chains and the rising cost of living.

In addition, internal staff changes within the secretariat, as well as the creation and administrative set-up of an association in Spain (with employer status) slowed down the monitoring and stimulation of certain working groups.

The international and UN recognition of the potential of the SSE as an alternative to the current system provides a favourable context for the SSE. The year 2022 was marked by the creation of a leading group of States aimed at putting forward a resolution on SSE at the UN General Assembly. It was scheduled for spring 2023 (and effectively adopted in April 2023). This is the fruit of many years of work and investment by RIPESS Intercontinental members since RIO+20, and more specifically, the sustained work of the international advocacy group.

RIPESS was able to draw on a project awarded in the context of a call for projects by the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD). This project aimed to support advocacy activities and strengthen networks to achieve the objectives of the two strategic areas listed below.

Finally, it was also a year in which post-pandemic became possible and RIPESS Intercontinental organised several face-to-face meetings with our members, thus strengthening our ties.

Below you will find the elements of the activities aligned with the two axes of the strategic orientations 2021-2023:

- Strengthen international advocacy work and the co-construction of SSE-friendly public policies and programmes to create an ecosystem that supports and strengthens the SSE at the global level.
- Contribute to the work of RIPESS to strengthen the networks of our continental members and ensure greater impact at sub-regional and local levels.

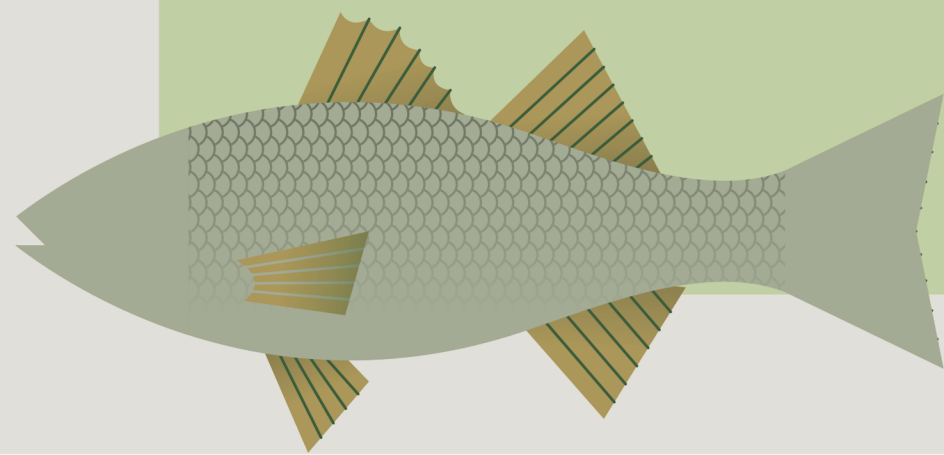
Transcontinental international advocacy (Working Areas 1 & 2)

RIPESS members have continued to participate and were invited to major international advocacy forums, such as the International Labour Conference (ILC), the United Nations in New York, the OECD and the Pact for Impact. Below are the main international advocacy fora where RIPESS and its continental members were present and the main actions they undertook:

United Nations Task Force for the Social & Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE): RIPESS has been an observer member of this UN inter-agency working group since its creation in 2013. We proposed and were able to participate in pushing for a draft UN resolution on the SSE that was taken up by a group of States to be brought to the UN General Assembly for adoption in early 2023. RIPESS was invited to participate in two events in New York. The first on 22 July in an activity organised by Spain and a meeting co-organised by France, Spain, Senegal and Chile on 13 December in New York

How can international recognition of the social Solidarity Economy (SSE) contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through social and inclusive innovation?

The regionalisation of the UNTFSSSE was initiated in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. RIPESS was the driving force behind these two processes, organising the meetings and involving the continental members (RIPESS LAC and ASEC) in these processes. In the first case, the meetings concluded with the integration of a session on SSE within the hybrid conference organised by UNESCAP (United Nations Agency for Asia and the Pacific) and the participation of ASEC (RIPESS continental organisation for Asia and the Pacific) in the concluding remarks.



In the second case, ECLAC (Economic Agency for Latin American Countries) jointly organised a webinar with the UN Regional Office and RIPESS LAC and with the ILO; the subject was the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2022 at regional level. [Webinar on Decent Work and SSE in Latin America and the Caribbean - Conclusions after the Ripess LAC meeting - RIPESS](#)

As far as Africa is concerned, we can say that the process has been slower, but our African member, the African SSE Network (RAESS), participated in the consultation process with civil society organisations for the African Union's strategic plan on SSE 2023-2033.

The Global Solidarity Economy Forum (GSEF) 2023 in Senegal in May 2023 provided an opportunity for the GSEF to boost this regionalisation activity. More generally, it has been a promising year for the African continent and thus for the RAESS.

International Labour Conference (ILC): RIPESS was accepted as a virtual observer in the general discussion on SSE and decent work during the 110th International Labour Conference. RIPESS was able to intervene and make an effective case through our various relationships, allies within the different groups represented - States, workers and employers - in particular the first two, and to contribute our expertise on the issues discussed on the SSE and in particular on its definition.

The conclusions were endorsed by all member countries of the UN system, as well as by the ILO's official social partners, i.e. employers and workers. Our web publication on this can be found here: [110th International Labour Conference comes to an end with SSE at the centre - RIPESS](#).



HLPF: RIPESS and the UNTFSSSE and the governments of France, Spain and Malaysia, jointly organised a highly successful official side event in the framework of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF2022) on "Building back better and promoting sustainable development through the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)". International organizations and policy makers reaffirm the historic momentum around the Social Solidarity Economy - RIPESS. Over 100 people participated.

GSEF: RIPESS is a member of the Global Solidarity Economy Forum Steering Committee, which meets four times a year. On 9 and 10 November, this committee met in person in Bordeaux.

Following the closure of the GSEF secretariat in Seoul, Bordeaux now hosts the new secretariat as of 1st April 2022. This meeting was therefore an important occasion to consolidate the new leadership and the change of the GSEF presidency to the City of Bordeaux. There is a desire to involve our continental networks in the activities of the GSEF and also in the participation in the GSEF Dakar 2023.

Pact for Impact: RIPESS has been a member of this organisation since its creation by France in 2019. In April 2022, this structure launched the creation of the group of States working towards the adoption of the UN resolution on SSE. Interviews with Yvon Poirier of RIPESS and Madani Coumaré of RAÉSS were published on our website. Read more about the Pact for Impact and RIPESS: 20th anniversary in building the SSE movement - RIPESS



Alliances (Working Area 3)

Working on alliances with other international networks and platforms (work area 3); joining forces with other entities allows us to broaden our areas of intervention according to sectors and interest groups and thus strengthen our advocacy power.

During 2022 and at the International Labour Conference, we understood the need and took the opportunity to partner with other international civil society organisations that share our vision of the SSE to join forces in advocacy.

We planned and organised a joint event with WSM (We Social Movements, a Belgian NGO), the ILO and RIPESS LAC for the GSEF Dakar 2023, which took place in May 2023. The theme was *The development of SSE, a tool and a strategy for achieving social protection for all*. You can find the results in the Ripess report at GSEF23

RIPESS co-organised a webinar with WSM and WIEGO (global network of women in the informal economy) in 2023; the objective was for the three networks to get to know each other better and work on joint advocacy strategies on SSE. Success in the last webinar that Ripess and sister organisations propose on future opportunities and challenges for the Social Solidarity Economy.

We also continue to work with other allies, such as the Global Platform for the Right to the City on a regular basis.

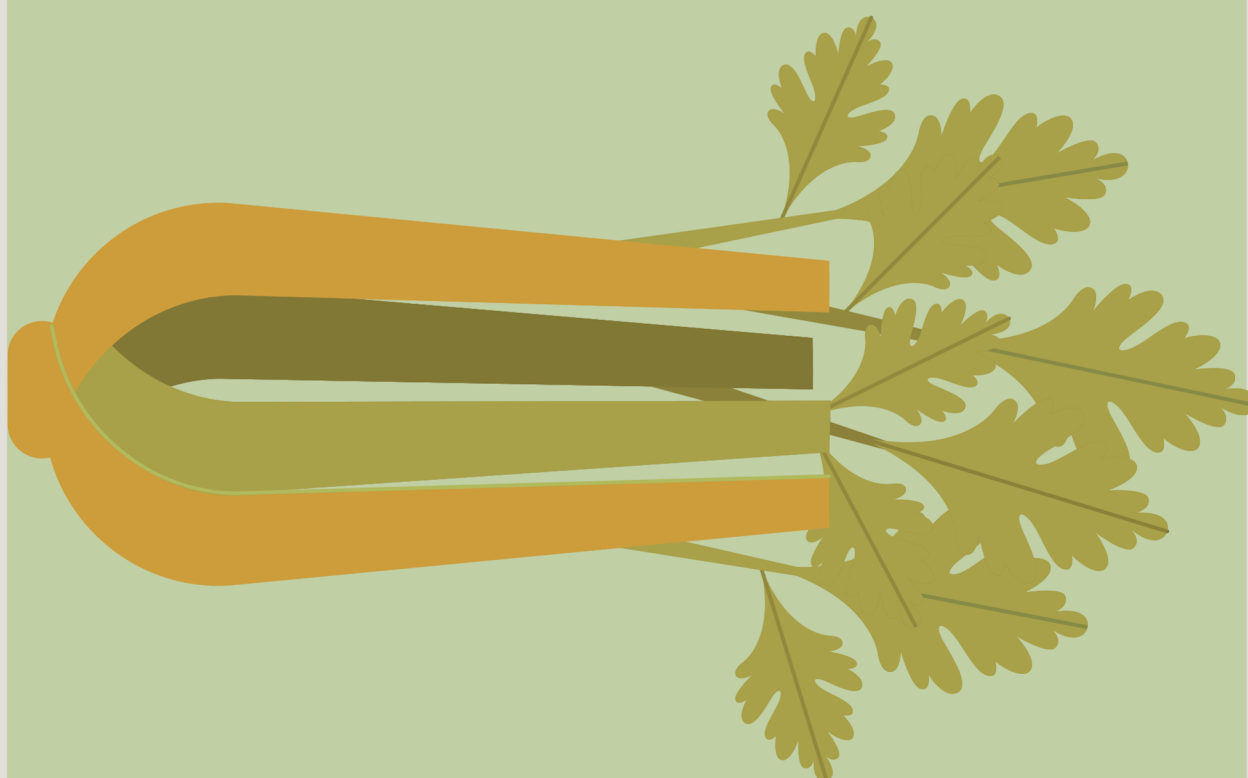
Communication (Working Area 4)

Communication to support the promotion of the SSE and the positioning of RIPESS (working area 4). As advocacy work requires the promotion of the SSE, RIPESS regularly publishes event notes on the website and social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter).

An Instagram: @ripossinter (with more than 250 followers) and podcasts have been created to reach out to a younger audience.

In addition, to mark the **25th anniversary of RIPESS**, a new website, <http://www.riposs.org/>, was launched in December, with a clearer and more visual layout and updated content.

The quarterly newsletters will continue to be published and participation in the UNTFSSSE communications working group to coordinate communications initiatives will continue.





Regionalisation process

All this work contributes broadly to the two strategic priorities, but in 2022 specific activities were also launched in the regions that will continue to strengthen regional and national networks, as well as their recognition at international level. The regionalisation process decided in 2021 has started to take shape in Asia and Latin America:

In **Asia**, ASEC organised its virtual meeting in August to work on the creation of convergence spaces to build SSE communities. The Oceania RIPESS network was also invited to participate. [ASEC delivers a session at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum ACSC/APF 2022 - RIPESS](#)

In addition, in 2022 **Oceania** became the first continent with a podcast in which they tell stories about the different lines of work and activities, as well as how the network was created and share a little of its history. To listen to it, in English: [Podcast – New Economy Network of Australia](#)

In **Latin America**, RIPESS LAC organised its face-to-face meeting in November at Ecuador, bringing together more than 70 representatives of national SSE networks in Latin America and the Caribbean. After two years of COVID and restrictions, it was necessary to meet again to exchange and feel a sense of belonging to a network. A representative of ECLAC and a representative of the RIPESS Intercontinental Secretariat travelled to Quito. RIPESS LAC is also part of the [INP!R](#) (social protection) network and is also supported by WSM in its projects. [Webinar on decent work and SSE in the LAC region. Conclusions after Ripess LAC gathering](#)

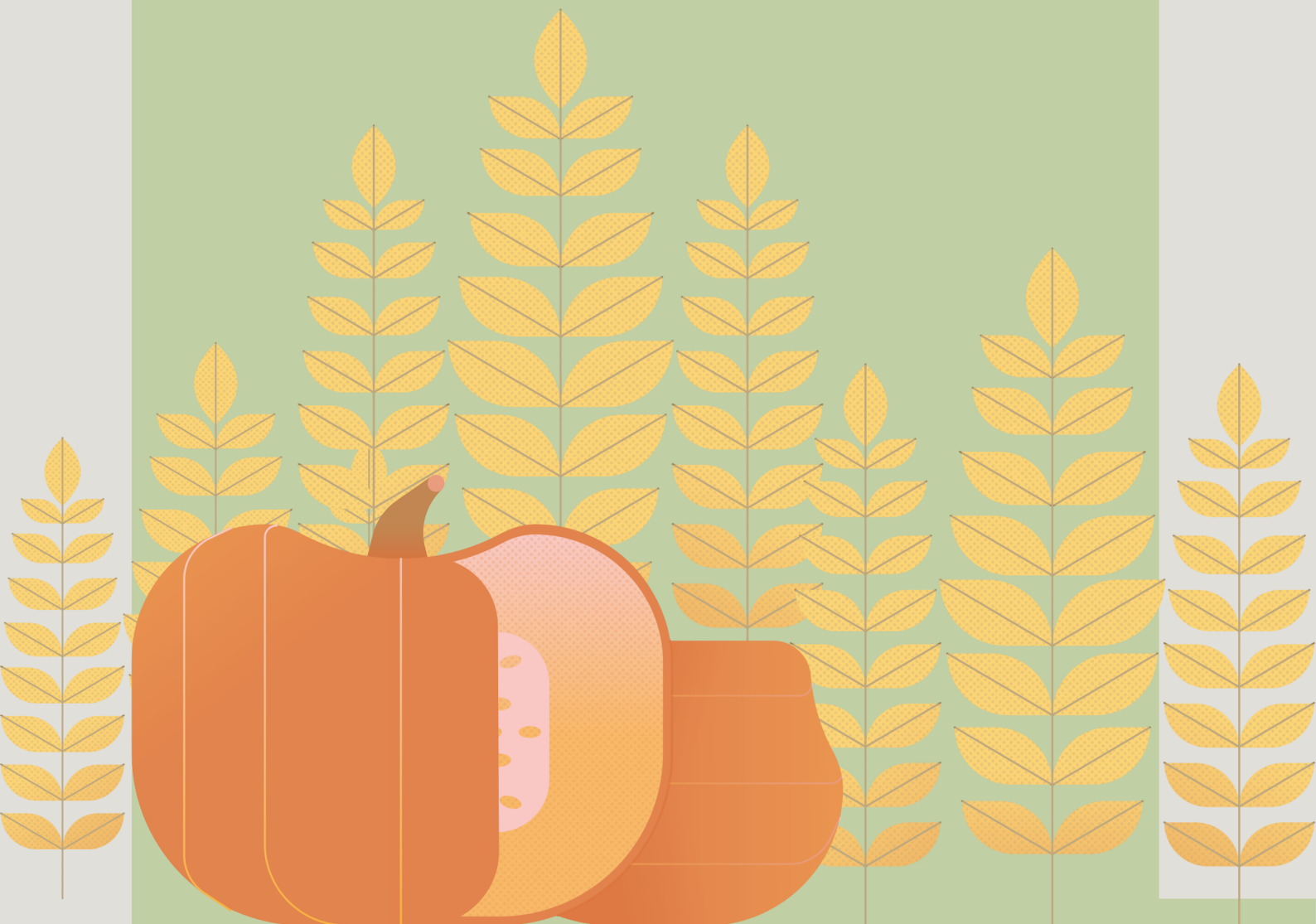
In **Africa**, RAÉSS participated in the scientific committee meetings of the GSEF meeting in Dakar, which brought together different networks. It is also worth mentioning that RAÉSS is recognised by the African Union as a key actor for the SSE and has been invited to participate in the AU consultations on [the SSE strategic plan](#) (link in French).

In September, RIPESS **Europe** held its general assembly, to which the intercontinental secretariat was invited; this allowed the full RIPESS Intercontinental secretariat to learn about the actions undertaken and the current focus of its work.

Governance and participation

Regular bilateral meetings continue to be held between the Coordination and each continent to discuss progress and challenges. These are important meetings to exchange ideas and ensure coherence and articulation. This helps to facilitate intercontinental meetings, improve understanding and inclusion of each other, and work more effectively in the same direction in this difficult context.

In 2023 the two years of joint coordination has come to an end, but the results have been positive and it was decided to keep this 3-person coordination format. 2023 is also the last year of the strategic plan, which means that we have to start the process of elaborating the next one.





Conclusion

2022 was a year of international recognition for SSE, which is positive for our policy work but also risky, because the SSE can be coopted and lose its vision of transforming the current economic system. That is why it is very important to work on the content and to insist on what we mean by SSE. We very clearly see the attempts at capture that are already taking place around the UN resolution on the SSE.

Part of the budget that was ultimately not used for travel was invested in technical support, as in 2021, which was particularly useful. RIPESS LAC is a network with great potential for local, regional and national advocacy work.

The RAÉSS presents 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.

RIPESS has been granted a new project funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), which will allow it to intensify its advocacy activities and strengthen its networks.

In terms of challenges for the coming year: the low number of paid staff compared to volunteers within RIPESS continues to pose a challenge for the stability of the Secretariat and the realisation of all planned activities. The network relies on volunteers in most continents. Their availability for RIPESS Intercontinental is necessarily limited.





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



**Agència Catalana
de Cooperació
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**Generalitat
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