

DECLARATIONS



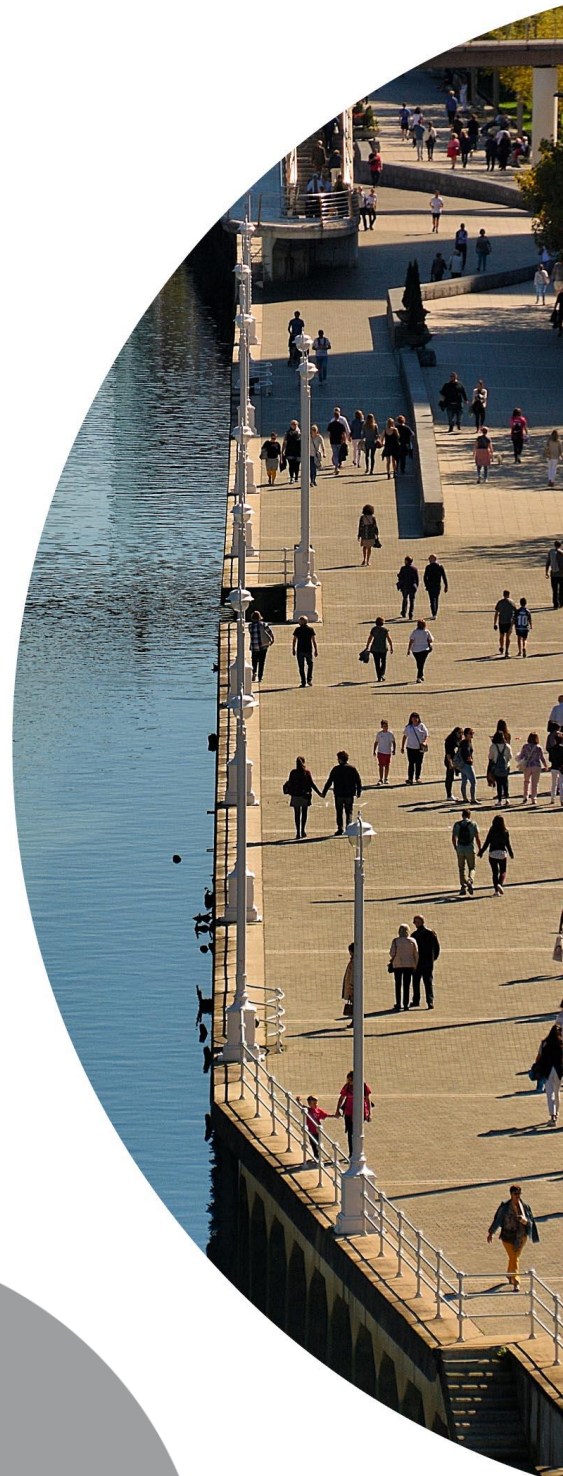
BILBAO2018

GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

Social Economy and Cities

**Values and competitiveness
for an inclusive and
sustainable local
development**

**BILBAO DECLARATION
GENDER DECLARATION
YOUTH DECLARATION**



Bilbao

www.gsef2018.org



GSEF2018 - BILBAO DECLARATION

3 October 2018 - Bilbao

We, the 1700 individuals from 84 countries, participants of the 2018 Global Social Economy Forum - GSEF2018 in Bilbao - strongly affirm that economic development serving both people and planet, leaving no one behind, is rooted in principles of democracy, social justice, solidarity, diversity and peace.

Current context

The magnitude and speed at which today's challenges are developing is unprecedented. Disruptive technologies and artificial intelligence, climate change, globalization, migration and demographic changes are shaping a new reality in which our current development paradigm struggles to adapt. A rapidly transforming labour market with increasingly atypical and precarious forms of employment calls for new strategies to address the future of work. Policy innovation to overcome the challenges faced by our cities and communities to ensure decent work, social protection, prosperity for all, can only be achieved with greater participation of all stakeholders. The co-construction of public policies is embedded in the social economy today.

Despite the diversity of terms, the Social Economy (SE) and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) share the same values of the primacy of people over capital, democratic governance and commitment to an ecological and just transition. Recent trends in many countries and regions demonstrate that youth are increasingly drawn to these values and principles and wish to work collectively to achieve them in all sectors.

We acknowledge the importance of localizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The contribution of the SE and SSE to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient society is increasingly recognized by UN agencies, governments and civil society as fundamental to achieve these goals. Great efforts in this regard are being made by the many actors and networks here today. The World Forum of Local Economic Development and the Localizing SDGs online resource are examples of this effort to facilitate and map the localization efforts globally.

Commitment to the Social Economy and the Social and Solidarity Economy

Many national, local and regional governments have adopted framework legislation and public policies that promote SE and SSE enterprises and organizations to provide effective and innovative solutions to meet local needs in all the economic sectors. They have also supported participatory budgeting, local currencies and solidarity finance mechanisms, and have dedicated public procurement with specific clauses. These measures, laws and policies are not only enabling the scaling and sharing of local practices across territories, but are also catalysts for systemic change at the macro level in which the SE and SSE are contributing to the democratic and inclusive transformation of our societies.

Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development

SE and SSE enterprises and organizations are viable, efficient, and generate social value and economic returns. Their competitiveness lies in the social impact generated by their activity, with economic returns reinvested into the community or the organization itself, enabling their ongoing capacity to accomplish their mission.

Locally situated, they must be mindful of the environmental impact of their activities and adjust accordingly. SE and SSE enterprises promote and create decent work embedded in values of social justice and respect labour rights. Sovereignty and transparency are more present in their supply chains, delivering goods and services based on the needs of the community they serve. Democratic governance and management practices are at the core of their *raison d'être*.

These values and principles underlie the commitment to the active inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, the elderly and persons with disability, and are the foundations of a peaceful, and resilient society rooted in solidarity and trust.

Resolutions

Based on the Montreal Declaration of 2016, we, the representatives of SE and SSE organisations, local and regional governments, networks and other partners, further commit to:

- Continue the co-construction and co-development of public policies and affirm the central role that each of us plays in overcoming the main challenges faced by our cities and communities;
- Prioritize and pursue our efforts to support and finance processes and fora that gather and coordinate input from civil society;
- Recognize and support research that identifies the needs and expertise of SE and SSE entities and measures their impact, in order to improve the knowledge of actors at all levels and support the dissemination of best practices;
- Advocate member states to call for a UN resolution on Social and Solidarity Economy;
- Further collaborate in the development of linkages between territories (both urban and rural) and work towards greater policy coherence at all levels of government (local, regional, national, international);
- Mobilize ethical, alternative and solidarity finance and local savings to support the further development SE and SSE.
- Improve environmental practices to become more transparent in production-consumption circuits in order to generate a necessary ecological and just transition.

We strive to achieve these resolutions by leveraging the roles, responsibilities and strengths of each of us (SE and SSE entities, government, universities, research institutes, UN and other international organizations), and by collaborating to assure an inclusive, just, resilient, and sustainable local development.

GSEF2018 - GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL ECONOMY. Declaration in favour of an inclusive economic and social model

3 October 2018 – Bilbao

Declaration in favour of an inclusive economic and social model

On 8th March this year, thousands of women all over the world took part in an unprecedented general strike, affecting not only employment but also care and consumption, in an attempt to show society that when women stop, the world is shaken.

This general strike, which saw women protesting the urgency of guaranteeing gender equality and ending the different types of violence that affect their lives, was accompanied by mass demonstrations. In Bilbao, as in many cities all over the world, the demonstration filled the street with women, and men, calling for an end to gender inequality.

The social economy can only support these claims because, precisely, in many of our business and organisation models, we consider gender equality as one of our values. In many cases, these are not mere declarations of intentions but real situations that, day by day, women have been able to overcome.

However, despite actions run by social economy organisations in favour of gender equality, even though the progress has been made over the last few years, and the thrust and decisions that women make in their daily lives, challenges still remain.

And this happens because, often without realising it, we reproduce gender power relations. And this happens despite that fact that the values that we defend and on which we build our economic and professional projects focus our activities precisely on all persons, in an attempt to guarantee equal opportunities and equality as a fundamental pillar of the social economy.

Solidarity, cooperation, democracy are fundamental values of the social economy that should already be guaranteeing gender equality in a socially inclusive economic model.

- In addition, to move forwards with full equality between men and women, from the social economy, and based on our values, we have to start taking important steps. Therefore, we are committing to:
- Promoting an inclusive work market that, by appreciating diversity and differences, guarantees equality opportunities for all persons and respectable, good quality employment.



- Categorically rejecting all forms of discrimination because, to help improve living conditions, the development model should be based on equal participation from women.
- Transforming our work processes to raise awareness on and consider all the tasks, productive and reproductive, that make the economy possible and sustainable, acknowledging the economic and social value of care.
- Generating protocols and immediate responses to reject gender violence to rid our organisations and society of this behaviour.
- Working to improve the practices of organisations in the social economy in terms of equal pay and representation in our decision-making bodies, getting rid of the pay gap or glass ceilings.
- Promoting the social economy as a pillar of our future cities, helping to build spaces to live together equally and boosting inclusive citizenship.
- Raising awareness and generating critical awareness around us. Empowering, learning and training up in new skills to demand gender equality in all the necessary spaces, inside and outside the social economy.

And don't forget that the social economy can only be as such if it is a feminist, fair, supportive and participative economy!



GSEF2018 - YOUTH DECLARATION

3 October 2018 – Bilbao

Youth vision

We believe that decent work is a powerful tool for transformation from extractive and exploitative work realities, as a result tackling multiple crises we are facing. We are citizens, students, community builders, curious explorers, parents, activists, cooperators, change makers, entrepreneurs - you name it! But we come together around values and principles of equality; meaningful and impactful work; being appreciated and having economic security; equal pay; being able to express ourselves and use our skills for the benefit of society; collaboration rather than competition; equal ownership; democratic rights and cultures of participation to influence our work and living conditions.

Business as usual has failed us. But we have each other and the wider solidarity movement to together explore, re-imagine and build a meaningful, inclusive and critical movement to demand change and create visions of the future together. We need to tap into the power of solidarity to have real systemic impact. We want to use social ventures as a vehicle for social impact and to sustain and care for our environment - not to destroy it. We need opportunities to self-empower; share our stories, knowledge and resources. We need spaces to come together and ensure the continuation of this movement to dig deeper and aim higher.

Recommendations

We believe youth spaces and participation must not be built in parallel to the spaces of the movement. As a key stakeholder of the future of SSE, “youth” is not an issue that is to be treated on its own – it is a generation that has projects, opinions and visions for most if not all the themes touched in the programming. Significantly less young people attended GSEF 2018 than we expected. The SSE will directly benefit from greater youth participation in its structures, as they and the GSEF become more inclusive and attractive to young persons.

As such, we believe that SSE structures and the GSEF association should formulate **goals of higher participation of youth** both as speakers, spokespersons and event attendees. Data should be collected on participant ages and a numerical target – we suggest 35% - should be set for participants under 35 and supported with funding. A goal should also be set to foster participation of those under 25, the often forgotten “younger youth”.

Furthermore, we believe this integration of youth in the global movement must come with a **voice within**. If a significant participation of young SSE leaders from around the globe is achieved for GSEF 2020, the program should include a plenary of youth to foster collaboration. We hope an international network of youth leaders can emerge from this meeting that will contribute to the work of the GSEF association before and between events. We also hope national and local SSE structures can make space for, and give power to, their own youth.

Finally, we must acknowledge that the majority of youth who stand to benefit from the SSE and who are using it to change their livelihoods are in the **Global South**, and that they are particularly under-represented in our movement. In the face of significant barriers to access to international events for this major constituency, specific efforts and resources should be affected to encourage and support participation of youth from the Global South in future editions of GSEF and in the global networks of the SSE.