Social Economy and Cities

Values and competitiveness for an inclusive and sustainable local development

www.gsef2018.org
The Global Social Economy Forum – GSEF 2018 is the fourth edition of this forum, that was initiated by the City of Seoul in 2013, in collaboration with its local social economy partners. The 2014 edition, held once again in the South Korean capital, culminated in the founding of the GSEF as a permanent international association uniting local governments and civil society stakeholders that recognize the Social Economy as a key factor in local economic development.

In 2015 Bilbao became part of the GSEF network

The third edition was celebrated in 2016 in the city of Montreal, where it was announced that Bilbao would host GSEF 2018

In February 2017 the Local Organizing Committee was created, which under the Councillorship of Economic Development, Commerce and Employment and alongside GSEF, has been the organ designing GSEF 2018. This Committee has been formed by Public Institutions and the representative entities of Social Economy.
The Local Organizing Committee of GSEF2018 is constituted by public administrations and the agents of Social and Solidary Economy

- EHLABE Labor inclusion for people with disabilities
- KONFEKOOP Basque Cooperatives Confederation
- ASLE Basque Labor Companies
- GIZATEA Basque Country’s Association of Social Integration Enterprises
- SAREEN SAREA Third Sector organizations in the Basque Country
- REAS Networks of Alternative and Solidary Economy
- EUDEL Association of Basque Municipalities
- Bilbao City Council
- Provincial Council of Biscay
- Basque Government
- Arrasate-Mondragon City Council
The Forum’s main theme was agreed among all the members of the Local Organizing Committee:

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Besides the entities and institutions of the Local Organizing Committee, a key role in GSEF 208 has been played by the University of the Basque Country, the University of Deusto and Mondragon University.
From 20 December 2017 until 23 March 2018, there was an international open call to submit initiatives or projects of Social Economy.

A total of 560 initiatives were received from 64 different countries.
5 plenary sessions, where a total of 31 public figures have intervened: local authorities, representatives of the European Commission and of entities and international networks of Social Economy. All of them, coming from 4 continents to debate and give testimony for Social Economy as a leverage of a more egalitarian and sustainable social and economic development.

29 workshops, distributed in 9 workshop sessions where 102 initiatives have been presented, selected among the nearly 600 received during the international open call. Over half of the presented initiatives were locally produced.

4 themed workshops organized by the GSEF network itself.

2 workshops organized by the European Commission.

7 workshops organized by international entities: ILO, OCDE, UNRISD, Fair Trade/WTO, RIPESS, UCLG, INAISE.

37 initiatives submitted in poster format.

11 field visits: 495 people participated and 32 local companies leading in Social Economy were visited.

3 side-events organized by GSEF partners, and 2 publishing of reports on a European level.
PARTICIPATION

1,664 people coming from 75 states and 327 cities

TIPOLOGY
- 60% Representatives of organizations and networks of Social Economy
- 18% Representatives of Local Governments
- 10% Representatives of Civil Society
- 6% Representatives of Universities
- 6% Other (press, …)

ORIGIN
- 39% Spain
- 30% Europe
- 15% Asia
- 6% North America
- 5% Africa
- 5% Latin America
43 fellowships were granted to speakers for travel expenses. Accommodation costs for 118 speakers were covered.
The IV Edition of the Global Social Economy Forum GSEF2018 has had great repercussion in the media, fundamentally on written press, radio, television, the internet y social networks. On this note, local news outlets have broadly covered the event, thence increasing its diffusion.

Equally, the entities which conformed the Local Organizing Committee, as well as other organizations that have somehow participated in the forum, have spread GSEF2018 through its corporate websites. Since many of them were international organizations (RIPESS, Social Economy Europe, European Union, UCLG, REVES, etc.), the international projection of the forum was further intensified.
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS that collaborated in GSEF2018

- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE
- WORLD BANK
- UCLG
- EUROCITIES
- INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION
- METROPOLIS
- ICLEI Local Governments for sustainability
- INAISE

- YOUNG FOUNDATION
- ASHOKA
- UNWTO
- EMES International Research Network
- Seoul Metropolitan Government
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- European Economic and Social Committee
- CEPES
- RIPESS
- REVES NETWORK
- UNRISD
- OCDE
During the Closing Ceremony of GSEF2018, it was officially announced that the next edition GSEF2020 will take place in MEXICO CITY.