

# THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (SSE) IN OUR REGION (MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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# INTRODUCTION

- The SSE could be a problem for the capital
- The “human capitalism” is an oximoron
- The SSE is a trustworthy paradigm, but it’s still in construction and a hard scientific foundation is required to be useful
- In developed societies there is an apperent SSE working, systematized and hoping
- ... however, there are places, like in Latin America, that faces problems like violence, extractivism and antidemocracy
- All we have said needs to harmonize SSE theory and practice. Today in Mexico there is an unsurpassable oportunity to achieve it



# THE SSE IN MEXICO, CA AND THE CARIBBEAN (I)

- The neoliberalism impact in employment and income in the region has turned the social inequality into violence
- The territory subsume the market into the Latin American problem
- In LA and the Caribbean poverty has been reduced from 45% to 25% of the total population between 2003 and 2011...
- ... but there were 23,9 homicides each 100,000 citizen in 2012, compared to Africa with 9,4, North America with 4,4, Europe with 2,9 and Asia with 2,7
- ... it means there is a violence incresement and a well social equity improvement (¿?)
- We need Research lines without economic issues as a priority, but social are required
- ... Statistics are insufficient





## THE SSE IN MEXICO, CA AND THE CARIBBEAN (II)

- From the total of young people between 18 and 23 years old, in Mexico, 33.2% have access to any type of education
- ...In Guerrero state just the 18%
- The Central America unemployment rate is 10.2%
- National poverty ranges between 50 and 60% of the total population in Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and Mexico ...



# THE SSE: AN EXIT DOOR (I)

- In Mexico, the SSE has a considerable presence throughout the national territory...
- It has been built in the daily struggle, sometimes in contexts of criminal violence and government repression, others in the heat of native and religious spiritualities or in the radical revolutionary perspective or in some combination of all these
- Between the Mayas and the Aztecas, there was an institutional form of production and solidarity distribution, such as:
- The *tequio*, at southern states of Mexico and the *gozona* between de Zapotecas of Oaxaca
- In Costa Rica the Borucas had their “Mano vuelta” (hand back)
- In Guatemala the “Tabjic Sac Comnil” was used between the Quichés y Queckchíes
- ... those traditions of solidarity cooperation remain active or willing to be recovered
- ... however, those traditions have been hit and minimized since the Spanish Colony instauration and with the neoliberalism advent they have been tried to disappear





# THE SSE: AN EXIT DOOR (II)

- The SSE is located in rural zones of our countries, which are big territories of our region and forgotten for the “policymakers” of the neoliberalism
- They are located in disconnected links of the value chains of many agricultural products, with few possibilities of financing to generate added value and without adequate commercialization channels
- ... those forms of production are expressions of solidarity in social-communal coexistence forms
- ...The market problem is very important, but no more than the recovery of the territory
- Today, large regions of Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America are convulsed by poverty, violence, injustice and dispossession of all kinds, in rural and urban areas
- Therefore, consider any alternative of development in this region means to discuss the problems of democracy and the factual powers, national and international



# THE SSE: AN EXIT DOOR (III)

- The cooperative movement, by its structuring, systematization and foundation, has become a representative expression of the SSE
- In Mexico the *Savings Bank of Orizaba* was founded in 1839 and in 1873 the *First Cooperative Workshop*, precursor of the first *Cooperative Society of Mexico*, integrated by 26 tailors of the City (the first cooperative in Rochdale was born in 1844)
- At the end of the 19th century, in Costa Rica, the *Costa Rican agricultural cooperative of Crops and Inland Settlement* and the *Craftsmen Cooperative of Heredia* appeared
- In Honduras, in 1876, the *Márcala Ladinos Society* arise
- The development and consolidation of cooperativism will evolve and be strengthened by the socialist and associationist currents of European immigrants
- Since the twentieth century this process has been promoted by the action of the Catholic Church, special international programs (such as USAID), international organizations (such as the ILO), by other organizations (such as the ICA) and by National states and revolutionary organizations



## Cuadro 1

Figura del Sector Social de la Economía	Población potencial 2014
Ejidos	29 555
Sociedades de producción rural	9 471
Uniones de Ejidos	6 426
Sociedades cooperativas de producción y de consumo	3 059
Comunidades	2 359
Sociedades de solidaridad social	1744
Uniones de Crédito	1680
Cajas de ahorro de trabajadores	1540
Total de Organismos del Sector Social	60 943

Fuente: (UIA, 2013, p.23).



# THE SSE: AN EXIT DOOR (IV)

- We have legal and legislative bases for a recognition of cooperativism
- Other problems of regional cooperativism: generational change; the creation of financial structures for their healthy expansion; and government policies and programs for their promotion and consolidation
- Its strength, cohesion and permanence in organized nucleus can keep the achievements working



# THE SSE: AN EXIT DOOR (V)


- It is necessary to consolidate a scientific paradigm of SSE that will be useful for decision making with fundamented actions
- Should the SSE be treated as a sector, and developed in that way, or as an alternative economic model to the capitalism?
- We need a scientific community that structures the paradigm through a recognized consensus that legitimizes it



# CONSIDERATIONS

1. To deepen the study of the ESS, in topics such as indicators of social welfare, its methodology and its scientific and philosophical foundation; national accounting and legal status
2. To Design, build and monitor the transition spaces of the neoliberal economy to an economy centered on the well-being of the person and the community, as well as the preservation and care of nature
3. To Link the principles of "fair trade" to the Solidarity Economy as part of a transitional program towards the new economy
4. To Evidence unequal treatment in international trade between rich and poor countries
5. To Build a Latin American vision of the Solidarity Economy
6. Participation in national and international instances referred to the SSE





The future is not destiny, it is a  
human construction that,  
recursively, begins for us

THANK YOU