



## 9<sup>TH</sup> CIRIEC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ECONOMY

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– 4 to 6 July 2023 in Seoul (Republic of Korea) –

### BUILDING FORWARD BETTER: SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FOR A PEACEFUL AND FAIR WORLD

**Working language:** English

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**Venue:** Seoul, Sungkonghoe University, **July 4 - 6, 2023**

## **BUILDING FORWARD BETTER. SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FOR A PEACEFUL AND FAIR WORLD**

Over the past two years, the disparities between the rich and the poor and the wealth gap between nations have deepened, namely due to the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the fear of war and conflicts is growing in different parts of the world. The recent years have shown that great threats can be posed to social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods, and to the future of our planet. How can we overcome the negative effects of the pandemic and build forward a fairer and more peaceful world? How can we prevent conflicts and war? How can we achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth and imagine a more sustainable future for the planet and the human beings living on it?

We believe that the social and solidarity economy (SSE) offers possible solutions to building the world a better place. SSE has been highlighted as an alternative model of growth in the 2020 UN Secretary General’s Report on “Socially just transition towards sustainable development” (UN 2021). This model is aimed at “finding a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience’ which ‘fosters economic dynamism, social and environmental protection and sociopolitical empowerment” (UNTFSSSE 2021). Conflicts derive from unmet human needs and aspirations whereas poverty eradication, social inclusion, and social cohesion help build a peaceful society. Cooperatives and social economy organizations respond to human needs and aspirations, including ambitions for a better future, more inclusive, more sustainable, more participative, and more prosperous for all (ICA 2019). Unfortunately, the contribution of the social economy is still not measured adequately everywhere in the world (Bouchard & Salathé-Beaulieu 2021). Still, it can be said that social economy organizations “are particularly prominent in peace building and post conflict transition, fostering community development [as they enable] sustainable livelihoods, market access, risk mitigation planning, micro insurance, integration in local communities and access to health services” (Cooperatives Europe 2019). They also have the potential to “form the nucleus of an alternative political economy of peacebuilding”, such as when working in rural areas in conflict countries as a strategy for local economic development (Esim & Omeira 2009: 11). They can provide the opportunity for small-scale democratic practices, which serves as a basis for “the building blocks of what could become a democratic economy on a society-wide scale” (Casparly 2007: 342). In this sense, “there is no peace without co-operation and there is no co-operation without peace” (MacPherson & Paz 2015).

The 9th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy will be held for the first time in Asia, more precisely in Seoul, which played a leading role in the development of the social economy in South Korea (Yoon & Lee 2020). Organizers are happy to call for papers that will address issues related to the general theme of this conference, including democratic governance for a democratic society, decent work and social cohesion, cooperation between public, private and social economy, solving environmental and social problems for a sustainable society, measuring the impact of social economy, social economy and platform businesses, gender issues, reconstruction after conflicts or natural disasters and imaginary narratives for the future. Papers on other themes related to the social and solidarity economy are also welcome.

### **Subthemes**

1. Democratic Governance
2. Partnerships Between Public, Private and SSE
3. SSE and Social and Environmental Transition
4. Statistics and Impact Indicators for the SSE
5. SSE and Gig Economy
6. SSE’s Role in Peace Building, Reconciliation and Reconstruction

7. SSE and Legal Frameworks
8. SSE and Green Transformation
9. Utopias and Imaginary Narratives
10. Gender and SSE

**SUBMISSION:** <http://www.cirieckorea.org>

**Key Dates:**

- Abstract submission deadline: 31 January 2023
- Acceptance notification: 1 March 2023
- Final paper submission deadline: 11 June 2023

**Instructions for papers & abstracts:**

- Language of Abstracts and Papers: solely ENGLISH.
- Abstract: max. 300 words, including 5 keywords and min. 5 references.
- Complete papers : max. 8000 words, including 5 keywords and all references.
- Compatible formats: Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx).
- Times New Roman 12 point, double spaced, 2.5 cm margin all around. References may be single spaced. Be sure to number the pages.

Name your file: Corresponding author last name in English capital letters\_CIRIEC\_Sub-theme number. Example : KIM\_CIRIEC\_6.

**Platform to submit your abstract:** <http://www.cirieckorea.org>

**Publication:**

Conference Proceedings – online PDF version of Abstracts, without ISBN.

Selected accepted papers of registered participants could be published – in their long revised version in associated scientific international journals:

- Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics (CIRIEC International) – <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14678292>
- Cuadernos de desarrollo rural – <https://revistas.javeriana.edu.co/index.php/desarrolloRural>
- Culture. Society. Economy. Politics – <https://sciendo.com/journal/CSEP>
- Management Dynamics in the Knowledge Economy – [www.managementdynamics.ro](http://www.managementdynamics.ro)
- Quality of Life Journal – <http://www.revistacalitatevietii.ro/indexEn.html>
- Review of Applied Socio-Economic Research – [www.reaser.eu](http://www.reaser.eu)
- Revista de CIRIEC Costa Rica – <https://revistas.uned.ac.cr/index.php/rna>
- Revista de economía pública, social y cooperativa (CIRIEC-España) – <http://ciriec-revistaeconomia.es/>
- Revue internationale de l'économie sociale (RECMA) <http://www.recma.org/>
- The Korean Journal of Cooperative Studies – [http://www.kcoops.or.kr/eng/html/sub04\\_01.asp](http://www.kcoops.or.kr/eng/html/sub04_01.asp)

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## **10 Subthemes descriptions**

### **1. Democratic Governance**

The social economy has the principle of democratic governance as one of its essential characteristics. As such, social economy is a vector for the democratization of the economy and, more broadly, the democratization of society. Democratic governance has been constantly questioned and reaffirmed throughout the transformations that the social economy has undergone over the last two centuries, and in particular during the recent period with the

emergence of more complex structures such as large groups or multi-stakeholder organizations. It has found a new resonance in the broad recognition given to the commons in the wake of Ostrom's seminal work or in the current reflection aimed at moving away from a conception of the firm as a simple meeting of shareholders seeking to maximize their individual profit.

From the numerous works devoted to governance in SSE, a few questions and themes emerge that can serve as guidelines for contributions: Democratic governance, strategy and performance; Governance, SDGs and social and environmental transition; Democratic, inclusive and participatory governance; Transformation of governance within social economy organizations; Degeneration, institutional isomorphism and governance; Democratic governance and the commons; Democratic economic governance in non-democratic political contexts; etc.

## **2. Partnerships Between Public, Private and SSE**

A large body of research has relatively recently investigated development and growth of public–private partnerships (PPPs) for the delivery of public infrastructure and ancillary services. The Special Issue for APCE by Palcic et al. in 2019 highlighted the numerous definitions of PPPs and brought clearer understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of PPPs and the factors that contribute to successes and failures. They concluded by noting that each PPP project is undoubtedly unique and deeply embedded within its local context, but that there are nevertheless common experiences that span multiple projects and national boundaries, and provide lessons that can be applied on a larger scale.

The idea of this call for contributions is to go one step further and integrate the third sector, the social and solidarity economy (SSE), into these already widespread partnerships. Any papers are welcome addressing following issues: Specific cases of broader partnerships encompassing all three sectors; Considerations to take into account regarding these partnerships; Types of collaboration for a durable development of social economy; Desirability of PPPs; Specific country experiences ; Roles of each player to build a peaceful and fair world; etc.

## **3. SSE and Social and Environmental Transition**

Diverse objectives and goals are found in the discourses and practices categorized by an umbrella concept of social and solidarity economy (SSE). Although their understandings of SSE and their objectives and goals are diverse, what they share in common is to subordinate market principles and processes to the values of people's wellbeing and planetary health, which triggers social and environmental transition from contemporary commodification of nature and the commons, the concentration of wealth, profit maximization centred on exploitative labour relations, and the externalization of social and environmental costs to a more just economy and society in a cleaner environment.

The subtheme on SSE and Social and Environmental Transition focuses on the following questions which can enrich the discussion on diverse strategies of SSE organizations and enterprises for social and environmental transitions; Empirical evidence on the role played by SSE in increasing people's wellbeing; How does SSE contribute to addressing climate crisis; Activities and relations of SSE relevant to transformation of society and economy; Drivers to make SSE key sector to systematically transform society and economy; Institutional and technical innovation of SSE to contribute to for the transformation of society and economy; etc.

## **4. Statistics and Impact Indicators for the SSE**

While there is a growing interest in the measurement of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and of its impacts, the SSE often remains “under the radar” of national statistics, and accounting for its impacts continues to be a challenge. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the role played by the SSE, showing its capacity for mitigating the impacts of the crisis on economy and society, providing innovative solutions in complement to government actions, and supporting the inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability of economic models. Examples are numerous of the contributions of the SSE to many sustainable development goals

(SDGs). While case studies illustrate well the contributions of the SSE, only few studies measure the impacts of the SSE and statistics to demonstrate the size and scope of the sector are lacking in many parts of the world. There is a need at the global level to have common, basic standardized statistics on the SSE and its different families of organizations.

This subtheme focuses on the issues and challenges of producing statistics for the SSE and measuring its impacts on the economy and society. One of these issues is defining the statistical perimeter of the SSE. Another is the harmonization of SSE statistics across countries. There is also a challenge in developing adequate tools to measure the sector and to assess its impacts. Statistical and measurement tools carry visions of what distinguishes the SSE from other statistical entities, which leads to various interpretations of its specific role and contributions. Some methodologies are more adapted than others to assess the full impact of the SSE, namely its non-economic dimensions. Alternative indicators may be needed to account for the SSE's input to larger goals such as peace, sustainable development, or social and environmental justice. This session will welcome papers addressing such issues surrounding the statistics and impact measurement of the SSE.

### **5. SSE and Gig Economy**

The gig economy or platform economy significantly reduces the information asymmetry between customers and producers, and even provides reviews from various consumers, significantly lowering transaction costs. However, to operate effectively, large-scale investment in IT technology development and marketing costs are required, which causes various side effects. More importantly, fragmented platform workers are hardly able to fight against giant dinosaur platform companies because of the difference in bargaining power. The local economy with small shops is increasingly struggling with the delivery system of platform companies. In addition, the situation in which only some capital investors who own companies in the end benefit from this is aggravating the gap between the poor and the rich in society.

The subtheme on SSE and Gig Economy welcomes addressing following issues: Strategy to overcome this situation by SSE; Governance of gig economy organization; Public or pension fund investment to improve the platform economy more democratically by cooperating with the social economy; Examples of platform organization operating as cooperatives; how platform SEEs to prosper in the digital economy system; Necessity of platform SSE; Conditions and systems for growth and prosperity; etc.

### **6. SSE's role in reconciliation and reconstruction after the conflicts and disasters**

We have experienced the tragedies caused by natural disasters and ethnic/religious conflicts. Now, we are facing the real threat of the possible use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine or elsewhere. The SSE has played important roles in the post-conflict reconciliation and co-operation in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Israel-Palestine or in the post-tsunami reconstruction in Indonesia, India and Japan as described by Cooperation and Pursuit of Peace edited by Ian MacPherson and Joy Emmanuel. Johan Galtung distinguished between negative peace (absence of violence) and positive peace (restoration of relationship, the creation of the social system serving needs of the whole population). SSE is urged to build a better future by its nature of cooperation.

This subtheme welcomes the following issues: Empirical evidence by SSE role in reconciliation and reconstruction after the conflicts and disasters; How to reconcile and reconstruct by SSE; Activities and relations of SSE relevant to reconciliation and reconstruction after the conflicts and natural disasters; etc.

### **7. SSE and Legal Frameworks**

Legal frameworks are essential for the creation of an enabling environment for a successful Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Although the visibility and recognition of SSE has improved over the last decade, data shows that the measures adopted by different legal systems have not always proved sufficient and effective due to: lack of conceptual clarification of SSE;

support measures limited or insufficiently stable; fragmentation of legal frameworks; limited administrative and political capacity of States to deal with a sector that is very diverse in terms of legal forms and scopes, which requires a necessary holistic approach; context costs that prevent or hinder innovation and sustainability of SSE entities. Overall, the field seems to be lacking contributions and involvement coming from real jurists and real comparatists.

Themes:

- 1) The concept of SSE and its legal recognition;
- 2) Legal forms and statutes of the SSE;
- 3) Tax framework of the SSE;
- 4) Public procurement and SSE;
- 5) Supervision and regulation of the SSE.
- 6) Concrete implementation problems of national legislations
- 7) International instruments for SSE legal frameworks
- 8) Situation of countries where SSE is not yet recognized

## **8. SSE and Green Transformation**

The SSE (Social and Solidarity Economy) has a long tradition for promoting green transformation which is one of the most pressing challenges today. For decades, the SSE has been active for lobbying for ecological justice at all supranational, national and sub-national government levels. Furthermore, SSE actors have been critical watchdogs of the ecological performance of enterprises. The SSE also plays a crucial role as service providers for implementing the green transformation agenda. Against this background, contributions from scholars are highly welcomed, which address the following issues:

- Which are currently the main challenges the SSE in developing and developed countries face in their different roles concerning green transformation?
- How do SSE organizations incorporate green transformation into their mission, strategies and activities?
- How do SSE organisations collaborate with private-for profit companies, public enterprises and other actors to achieve the green transformation?
- Which specific innovative activities are undertaken in forest management, as one important area in the green transformation process?

## **9. SSE Utopias and Imaginary Narratives**

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) has a strongly utopian dimension, a dimension weakened by the isomorphism phenomenon. Since some years we have seen a return of utopia in society. What forms do the ideals of the SSE take today?

The utopian socialism of the 19th century broadly inspired the birth of SSE organizations. The work of Desroche (1976) has studied the various utopias at the origins of cooperative enterprises and formalized the trajectory from written utopia to practiced utopias. For a time banished for having led to the worst, then swallowed up by galloping liberalism, utopias seem to come back in consciousnesses and imaginaries.

Utopia can be grasped with the help of the concept of social imaginary (Castoriadis, 1975 ; Ricoeur, 1997) which has a double function: at the same time to allow each one to order his practices within a social world legitimized by a base of beliefs, myths and shared ideologies, but also to allow each one to contribute to the creation of a new society through dreams, fantasies, utopias. SSE imaginaries play a role in the transmission of values and practices specific to SSE as well as in supporting its transformative role. This subtheme address following questions: Which are the forms of expression of this social imaginary, within and outside SSE organizations? Which are their narratives, whether literary stories (tales, novels, poems, cartoons...), media expression (radio, films...), artistic work...? What is the role of this ideal in the vision, the mission, the strategic planification of the organizations ? Of which stories SSE would need today to progress, etc.

## 10. Gender and SSE

Numerous fields of study address the issue of gender, such as the analysis of the presence of social economy in certain specific sectors of the economy, the role it plays (and its failures) in social inclusion and the promotion of women or in the democratization of production. From more critical perspectives, several issues are raised. For example, the problem of women's working conditions in the sector of aid and services to people or the analysis of the relationship between gender and volunteering, and its less friendly face, when it is transformed into a system of exploitation of free labor by market or public sector agents. Adding to this, the analysis of the management models of the entities themselves according to their size or sector of activity is important, as well as, of course, taking into account the cultural and symbolic diversity of the gender issue in different national contexts.

In this subtheme we would like to include theoretical and practical reflection from the gender approach in the social and solidarity economy. To this end, we want to address papers related to social justice, public policies, management models, new forms of collaboration, case studies, in the social and solidarity economy, from a gender approach.

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