

Training contents SSOLEIL project. SECTION 4

## **Local and Solidarity Economy Tools for the Local Level**



**Cofinanciado por  
la Unión Europea**

## Section 4: The SSE in Spain and France

### 4.1 The SSE in Spain

In recent years, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Spain has experienced a remarkable growth, consolidating itself as a key pillar of the country's economic and social development. Through cooperatives, labour societies, integration enterprises and associations, the SSE has promoted stable employment, promoted social equity and contributed to a more sustainable and participatory model of development.

#### 4.1.1 Policy Framework and Institutional Context

The regulatory framework for SSE in Spain is mainly found in **Law 5/2011 on Social Economy**, which establishes the basis for its operation and recognizes entities of the sector. In addition, several autonomous communities have developed specific regulations to strengthen the SSE within their territories, facilitating its access to financial support programmes and promoting its integration into public policies.

Currently, an amendment to Law 5/2011 is being promoted with the aim of updating its regulatory framework and adapting it to current challenges. The proposed changes include:

- **Extension of legal recognition:** Incorporation of new legal forms within the SSE.
- **Improvement of fiscal and financial incentives:** Facilities for access to credit and tax benefits for SSE entities.
- **Promotion of responsible public procurement:** Prioritization of SSE in the processes of procurement of goods and services by public administration.
- **Integration of SSE in digitization strategies and green economy:** Adaptation to EU policies on sustainability and digital transformation.

#### 4.1.2 Key Sectors of SSE in Spain

The sectors where SSE has had a major impact include:

- **Renewable energy:** Cooperatives like **Som Energia** have facilitated access to clean and sustainable electricity.
- **Ethical finances:** Banks such as **Fiare Banca Ética** y cooperativas de crédito have promoted more responsible financial models.

- **Organic farming and responsible consumption:** Initiatives such as social markets have enabled the marketing of local and sustainable products.
- **Social services and inclusive employment:** Integration enterprises and labour cooperatives have created jobs for groups at risk of exclusion.

#### 4.1.3 Impact of SSE in Spain

According to data from the **REAS Social Balance**, SSE represents approximately **10% of Spanish GDP** and generates more than **2 million jobs**. Its qualitative impact stands out in aspects such as

**Generation of decent employment:** 70% of SSE entities offer stable contracts and prioritize fair working conditions.

**Sustainability and environmental commitment:** More than 60% of entities implement waste reduction and energy efficiency strategies.

**Democratic governance:** 90% of the entities have participatory decision-making processes.



These data highlight the role of SSE as a driver of equitable and sustainable economic development in Spain.

#### 4.2 The SSE in France

France is a leader in the development and regulation of SSE in Europe. The **SSE Law of 2014** provided a strong legal framework, strengthening recognition and support for cooperatives, mutuals, associations and social enterprises.

##### 4.2.1 Regulatory Framework and Public Policies

The 2014 Act established clear principles for SSE and gave it a central role in the economy. It also created specific funding mechanisms and support policies through the **SSE Regional Chambers (CRESS)**, which promote and articulate the SSE at territorial level.

##### 4.2.2 Key Sectors of SSE in France

- **Sustainable energy:** Cooperatives such as **Enercoop** have driven the energy transition to renewable sources.

- **Circular economy:** Recycling and reuse networks have generated sustainable alternatives to the traditional production model.
- **Sustainable housing and urban planning:** Projects such as the **Community Land Trust** have facilitated access to affordable housing without real estate speculation.

#### 4.2.3 Impact of SSE in France

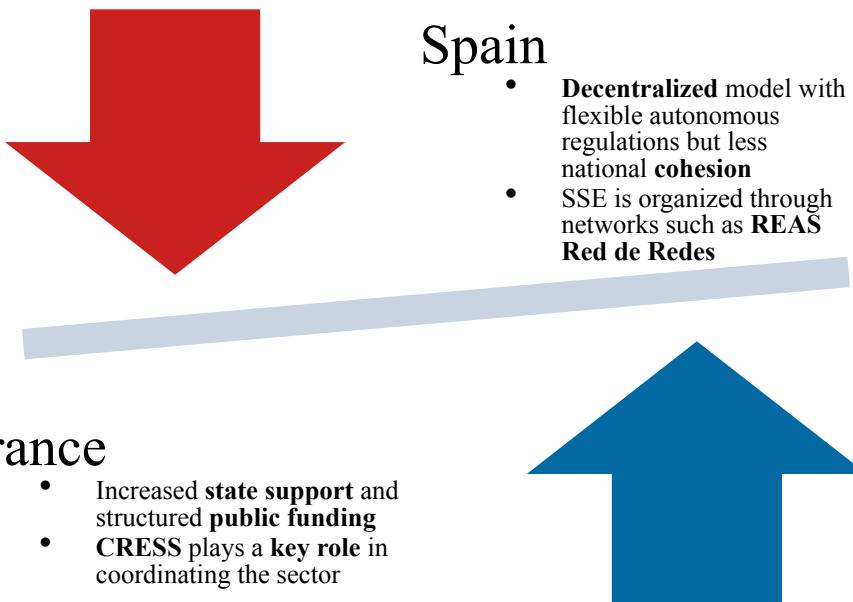
Based on **CRESS France** data:

- ✓ SSE accounts for **14% of private employment** in some regions.
- ✓ **80% of entities reinvest their profits** in local development.
- ✓ More than **2.5 million people** work in SSE entities in France.

These data reflect the capacity of SSE to generate stable employment and consolidate a more inclusive and sustainable economic model in France.

### 4.3 Comparison between Spain and France

Both countries have developed strong regulatory frameworks for SSE, but with different approaches:



### 4.4 Outstanding Examples

#### 4.4.1 In Spain

- **Som Energia:** Renewable energy cooperative with more than 80,000 members.
- **Mercado Social de Madrid:** Network of companies and consumers committed to the solidarity economy.

- **Fiare Banca Ética:** Cooperative banking oriented to the financing of projects with social impact.

#### 4.4.2 In France

- **Enercoop:** Renewable electricity cooperative with citizen participation.
- **PTCE Tetris:** Territorial project that promotes the circular economy and social inclusion.
- **Réseau Cocagne:** Network of solidarity-based orchards combining ecological production with job integration.

### 4.5 Challenges and Opportunities for the SSE

#### 4.5.1 Challenges



**Lack of visibility:** greater recognition and promotion of SSE is required.



**Access to funding:** need for more investment in SSE projects.



**Competition with large corporations:** The SSE must find strategies to compete in markets dominated by large companies without losing its identity and values.



**Lack of training and awareness:** More momentum in SSE training is needed to strengthen the management of these entities.

#### 4.5.2 Opportunities

These elements underline the importance of SSE in the transition to a more equitable and resilient economy in Spain and France.