

Training contents SSOLEIL project. SECTION 7

Local and Solidarity Economy Tools for the Local Level



**Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea**

Section 7: Practical Cases of the SSE

Case studies are essential to understand the impact of SSE in different territories. Through concrete experiences in Spain, France and other countries, it is possible to identify good practices, challenges and successful strategies that can serve as a reference for new initiatives.

7.1 Outstanding Cases in Spain

Spain has a strong tradition in SSE, with initiatives covering multiple sectors, from agro-ecological production to job insertion and access to housing. Some representative examples are:

- **Economistas sin Fronteras**: Organization that promotes SSE through economic analysis, advice and training in ethical finance, responsible consumption and social entrepreneurship. Their work has been key in the dissemination of solidarity economy and the promotion of alternative development models.
- **Traperos de Emaús (Navarra)**: Re-use and recycling initiative with a strong social inclusion component. This project has managed to combine environmental sustainability with the employment of people in vulnerable situations, demonstrating that SSE can generate employment and simultaneously reduce the environmental impact.

7.2 Outstanding Cases in France

France is a leader in the development of SSE, with advanced public policies and a strong cooperative culture in key sectors such as housing, energy and social inclusion.

- **Les Ateliers Jean Moulin** (Britain): Cooperative production and training for the employment of people at risk of exclusion. This initiative has demonstrated how SSE can be a driver for vocational training and social integration, ensuring stable employment in key productive sectors.
- **Brest Métropole Habitat** (Britain): Housing cooperative that manages cohousing spaces and promotes urban sustainability. Its model has allowed the creation of accessible and self-managed housing, avoiding real estate speculation and strengthening the social fabric.
- **SICAP** (France): Cooperative in the energy sector. SICAP is an example of how cooperatives can play a key role in the energy transition and decentralization of electricity supply.

- **Ardelaine** (France): Textile cooperative working with local wool under fair trade principles. This project has made it possible to restore the traditional textile sector in France with criteria of sustainability and respect for workers.

7.3 International Experiences of the SSE

The impact of SSE is not limited to Europe. Globally, there are innovative experiences that have demonstrated the potential of the solidarity economy in various contexts.

- **Oikocredit** (Netherlands): International financial cooperative that funds SSE projects in developing countries. Its model is based on ethical investment and support for sustainable initiatives.
- **Cooperative New Zealand** (New Zealand): National platform to support cooperatives in various sectors. It has played a key role in promoting SSE and strengthening the cooperative ecosystem in the country.
- **Fairbnb** (Italy): Alternative platform to Airbnb with principles of collaborative economy and reinvestment in local communities. Fairbnb seeks to generate positive social impact through a sustainable and fair tourism model.
- **Sampa+** (Brasil): Network of solidarity micro-credits that supports popular economy ventures. This initiative has enabled access to financing for small community businesses in favelas and working-class neighborhoods, promoting economic autonomy and job creation.

7.4 Challenges and Lessons Learned from Practical Cases

The analysis of these cases reveals a number of common challenges facing SSE initiatives, as well as valuable lessons that can be used to strengthen this economic model.

7.4.1 Identified Challenges

- **Access to funding:** Many SSE initiatives have difficulty accessing credit and grants, limiting their growth and sustainability.
- **Lack of institutional recognition:** Although favourable policies exist in some countries, SSE still faces administrative and regulatory barriers.
- **Competition with large companies:** SSE entities must compete with conventional market players that have greater resources and presence.
- **Scalability and replicability:** Some initiatives are successful at the local level but find it difficult to expand or replicate their model in other contexts.

7.4.2 Lessons Learnt

- **Importance of institutional support:** The cases of France and Spain show that government support is key to SSE growth.
- **Innovation and digitalization:** The incorporation of digital tools can improve the efficiency and visibility of SSE entities.
- **Inter-cooperation:** Networking for cooperation strengthens initiatives and allows sharing of resources and knowledge.
- **Economic sustainability:** Hybrid financing models, combining ethical investment, subsidies and self-generation of income, have proved to be the most effective.