

Training guide SSOLEIL project

Local and Solidarity Economy Tools for the Local Level



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Section 1: Introduction

In the current economic landscape, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has established itself as an alternative that challenges conventional models of production and consumption. This manual, developed in the framework of the SSOLEIL project, aims to be a key tool for strengthening and promoting SSE at the local level. It has been carefully prepared with the aim of offering quality training material to various actors: local authorities, SSE enterprises, third sector entities and professionals interested in economic and social transformation.

Through this manual, the aim is not only to provide technical and practical information, but also to foster critical reflection on the role of SSE in building more equitable, sustainable and resilient societies. Far from being merely an alternative economic model, the SSE represents a holistic approach that places people and the common welfare at the centre of economic activity. In a world marked by economic, environmental and social crises, SSE offers concrete and viable solutions to move towards more equitable and inclusive development models.

This manual is an invitation to action. Each chapter, each tool and each case study collected here has been selected with the purpose of inspiring and resourcing those who seek to bring about change in their communities. Economic transformation is not an immediate or unchallenging process, but every effort counts. The SSE shows us that another economy is possible, one in which cooperation, sustainability and equity are fundamental principles.

We hope that this document will be a source of learning and an engine for change for those who consult it. Building an economy at the service of the common good is a collective path, and every step in that direction contributes to a more solidary and sustainable future.

Social and Solidarity Economy



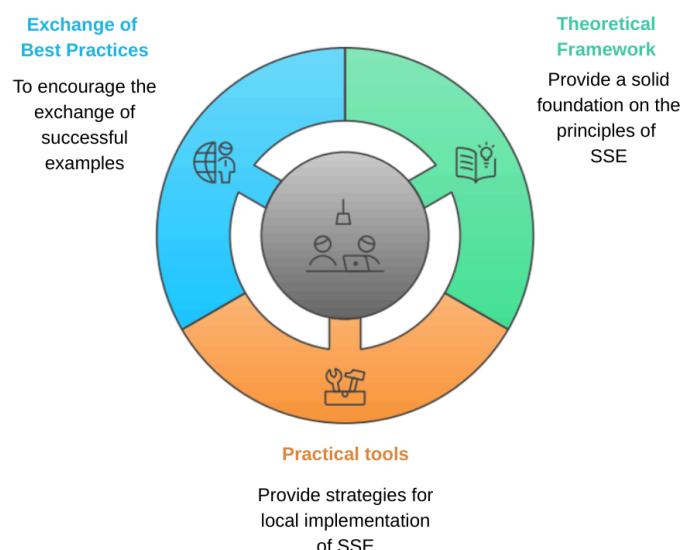
1.1 Genesis and Purpose of the Manual

This manual is the result of work carried out within the SSOLEIL project, a Franco-Spanish initiative focused on strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) at local level. With the participation of entities such as **B-LIVE International** and **SCIC KEJAL**, this project aims to promote training, knowledge exchange and the generation of practical tools for technicians, entrepreneurs and social agents interested in SSE.

Partly funded by the **Erasmus+** programme, the SSOLEIL project responds to the growing need to integrate sustainable and supportive economic models into the development of local economies. This manual is the result of research, workshops and consultations with SSE experts and actors in Spain and France, consolidating an accessible pedagogical approach that combines theory, case studies and strategies applicable in various contexts. Its content is designed to facilitate the understanding and implementation of SSE, promoting social cohesion and economic sustainability in the territory.

The SSE has established itself as a viable alternative to conventional economic models, by prioritizing values such as social equity, environmental sustainability and democratic participation. It is not just a distinct economic proposition, but a transformative vision that places people and common welfare at the heart of economic activity. In times of crisis and profound change, SSE offers concrete and adaptable solutions to build more just and resilient societies.

Through this manual, we aim to provide not only a theoretical basis on SSE but also practical tools for putting its principles into action. Each chapter, case study and strategy presented in this document has the potential to inspire new initiatives and contribute to the transformation of the local economy. The construction of an economic model at the service of the common good is a continuous process that requires the commitment and collaboration of multiple actors. This handbook is our contribution to that collective effort and we hope it will serve as a useful guide for those working towards a more sustainable and supportive economy.



1.2 Relevance of SSE to Local Development

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has become an essential pillar for local development. Its impact is reflected in multiple areas, from the creation of decent jobs to the revitalization of local economies and the promotion of inclusive business models. Through cooperatives, mutuals and associations, the SSE promotes development based on active community participation, ensuring that economic decisions are taken in a collective and equitable manner.

For a territory to achieve sustainable development, it is essential to have economic models that prioritize the well-being of communities, avoiding excessive dependence on large corporations and speculative markets. The SSE promotes responsible production and consumption, strengthens democratic participation and promotes a more equitable distribution of wealth. In addition, it responds to fundamental needs such as affordable housing, agro-ecological production, sustainable mobility and the integration of groups at risk of social exclusion.

One of the main contributions of the SSE is the decentralization of the economy. In contrast to a traditional economic model based on the concentration of capital and resources in large companies, the SSE relies on the redistribution of wealth through proximity economic circuits. This approach strengthens the resilience of communities to global economic crises and allows for more balanced and accessible economic development.

Another key aspect is their ability to generate decent and stable employment. While the conventional labour market tends towards precarization and volatility, SSE entities guarantee fair working conditions by promoting stable contracts, decent wages and a labor organization based on equity and co-responsibility. Sectors such as agro-ecological production, education, care and natural resource management have found in the SSE an efficient model to generate employment with social values.

SSE also strengthens social cohesion by encouraging citizen participation in economic decision-making. Through cooperatives, associations and social enterprises, people can be actively involved in the management of economic initiatives that affect them, consolidating democratic governance structures. This approach not only improves the efficiency of projects, but also strengthens the social fabric and promotes a sense of co-responsibility among local actors.

From an environmental perspective, SSE promotes sustainable production models that reduce the ecological footprint and encourage the regeneration of ecosystems. Examples include renewable energy cooperatives, fair trade networks and circular economy initiatives that minimize waste and optimize the use of natural resources. In a context of climate crisis, SSE is positioned as a viable alternative for the transition to more resilient and sustainable economic models.

Finally, the impact of SSE on local development translates into greater territorial equity. In many regions, SSE has served as a tool to revitalize rural communities and urban neighbourhoods undergoing economic degradation, fostering initiatives that generate

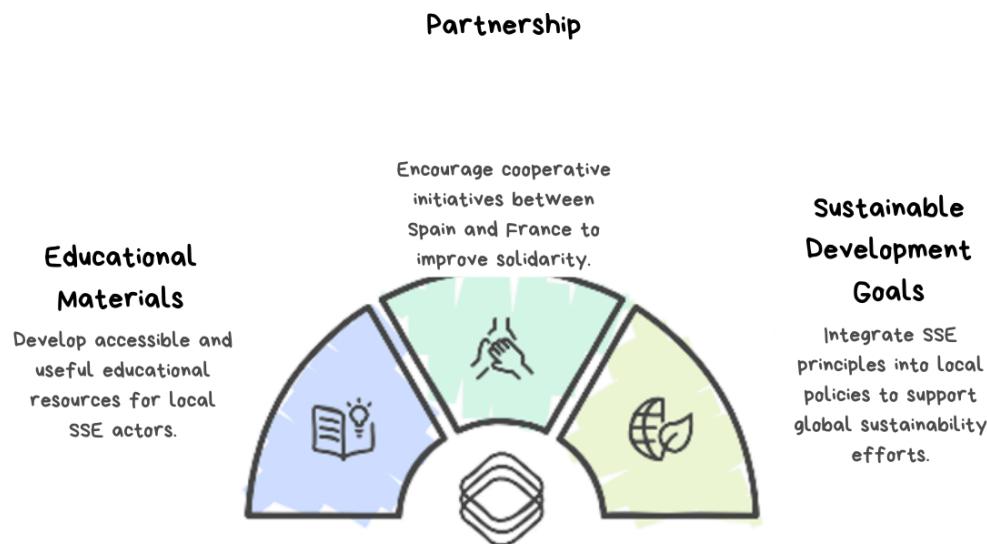
employment, essential services and entrepreneurship opportunities. Its ability to adapt to the specific needs of each territory makes it a key strategy for building more inclusive and sustainable economies.

The SSE is not only an alternative to traditional economic models, but also offers concrete solutions to today's challenges. Its combination of democratic participation, sustainability and economic equity makes it a fundamental model for the future of local development. This manual aims not only to impart knowledge about SSE, but also to inspire new initiatives and contribute to the consolidation of an economy based on cooperation, sustainability and common welfare.

1.3 The SSOLEIL Project

The SSOLEIL project was born with the intention of connecting SSE experiences in Spain and France, promoting the exchange of knowledge and methodologies. The initiative seeks to integrate SSE into local development policies, strengthening their visibility and sustainability. Its main objectives include:

- Facilitate access to information and training on SSE through educational materials and training activities.
- Promote inter-cooperation between SSE entities in different territories.
- Raise awareness of the importance of SSE in building more just and sustainable societies.



1.4 Structure and Methodology of the Manual

The handbook is organized into thematic chapters that address key aspects of SSE, from its definition and principles to its practical implementation and impact in different

contexts. Theoretical approaches are combined with case studies and practical tools to facilitate their application in different territories. The methodology used is based on:

- A participatory and collaborative learning approach, where experiences of different SSE actors are collected.
- Analysis of good practice, with case studies on successful initiatives in different sectors.
- Evaluation and planning tools, such as social audits and participatory management models.

1.5 Addressees and Applications of the Manual

This manual is aimed at a diverse audience:

Recipients	Reasons
Public administrations	Integrate SSE approaches into their local development policies and programmes.
Social entrepreneurs	Cooperative and sustainable business models.
Cooperatives and associations	Obtain tools to improve their management and broaden their impact.
Educators and trainers	Use the manual as reference material in training programmes.
Citizens in general	Learn more about the SSE and participate in solidarity initiatives.

1.6 The SSE as a Response to Current Challenges

The SSE offers innovative responses to the main economic, social and environmental challenges facing contemporary society. As the economic and ecological crises intensify, SSE is consolidating itself as a viable and resilient alternative, based on cooperation, equity and sustainability.

1.6.1 Economic Crisis and Job Insecurity

One of the main problems facing society today is the precarization of employment. In many countries, labour instability and the erosion of labour rights have created an uncertain and unequal working environment. In the face of this, SSE has demonstrated its ability to generate decent employment, based on job stability, pay equity and democratic participation of workers in decision-making.

Worker cooperatives, for example, allow their members to run their own businesses without intermediaries and share the profits fairly. Social integration enterprises have also facilitated the access to employment of groups at risk of exclusion by offering training and support.

1.6.2 Climate Crisis and Environmental Sustainability

The traditional economic model has intensified environmental degradation, leading to an unprecedented climate crisis. The SSE proposes alternative production models that prioritize environmental sustainability, circular economy and energy transition.

Examples are renewable energy cooperatives, which allow communities to manage their own energy supply from clean sources, or circular economy networks, which reduce the environmental impact by reusing and recycling products and materials. In rural areas, many SSE initiatives have focused on agroecology and sustainable food production, reducing the negative impact of the agro-industrial sector on the ecosystem.

1.6.3 Social Exclusion and Inequality Gap

Contemporary societies have seen growing economic and social inequalities, leaving large segments of the population in situations of exclusion and vulnerability. The SSE responds to this problem by promoting social integration initiatives, facilitating access to essential goods and services such as housing, health and education.

Leasehold housing cooperatives have proved to be an innovative solution to the problem of access to housing, offering models of collective ownership that avoid property speculation. In addition, in the field of care, SSE has promoted cooperatives of domestic workers, guaranteeing labour rights and offering accessible services to the population.

1.6.4 Digitization and Technological Transformation

The advance of digitization and new technologies has created new opportunities, but also significant challenges for SSE. While large digital platforms have driven business models based on exploitation and precarisation, the SSE has developed cooperative alternatives in the digital field.

An example of this are the cooperative platforms, which offer digital services under democratic and equitable management models. These platforms allow workers and users to co-own and make decisions about profit management and sharing. A case in point is CoopCycle, a network of delivery co-operatives that competes with large, untapped delivery platforms to delivery agents.

1.6.5 Strengthening the Community Fabric and Democratic Participation

Beyond its economic and social impact, the SSE promotes the reconstruction of the community fabric through models of participatory management and economic democracy. Governance in SSE entities is based on collective decision-making, which allows for greater equity and transparency in the management of resources.

Through spaces such as social markets, time banks and local currencies, the SSE promotes inter-cooperation and the development of solidarity networks that strengthen the resilience of communities. These mechanisms make it possible to reduce dependence on the conventional financial system and strengthen the autonomy of local economies.

1.7 Future Prospects and Challenges

One of the key aspects for the consolidation and expansion of SSE in the future is the implementation of strategic public procurement. This tool allows public administrations to incorporate social, environmental and sustainability criteria in their procurement processes for goods and services, favouring SSE entities and promoting a more equitable and sustainable economic model.

1.7.1 Implementation of Strategic Public Procurement

Strategic public procurement is the integration of social and environmental clauses into public contracts, ensuring that public sector purchases contribute to the development of SSE. This can be achieved by:

- Social clauses in public contracts: Require that a percentage of state contracts be awarded to cooperatives, insertion enterprises and other SSE entities.
- Promotion of the recruitment of vulnerable groups: Establish criteria that prioritize the inclusion in employment of people at risk of social exclusion.
- Assessment of environmental and social impact: Incorporate in the award criteria indicators that measure the sustainability and social commitment of participating companies.

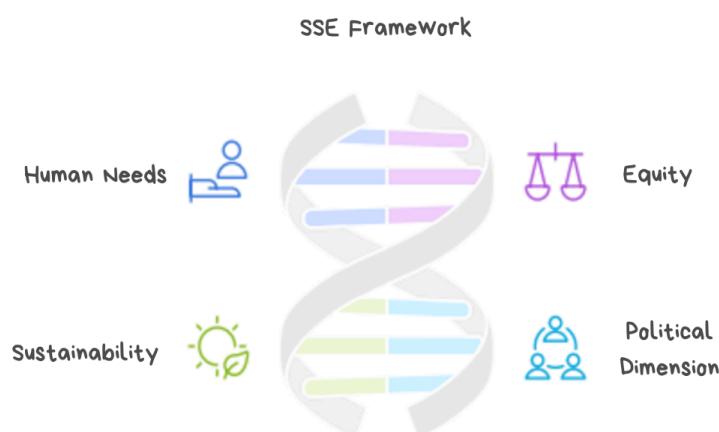
The future of the SSE depends on its ability to adapt to new challenges, such as digitalisation and globalisation. To this end, it is essential to strengthen collaborative networks, improve access to finance and promote public policies that support their development.

Section 2: Definition of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

2.1 What is the SSE: Differences with the Social Economy

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is an economic model that places people, collective well-being and ecological balance at the centre of its activity, prioritising these principles over maximising economic profit. Its purpose is to generate a positive impact on society through organizational structures based on cooperation, equity and democracy.

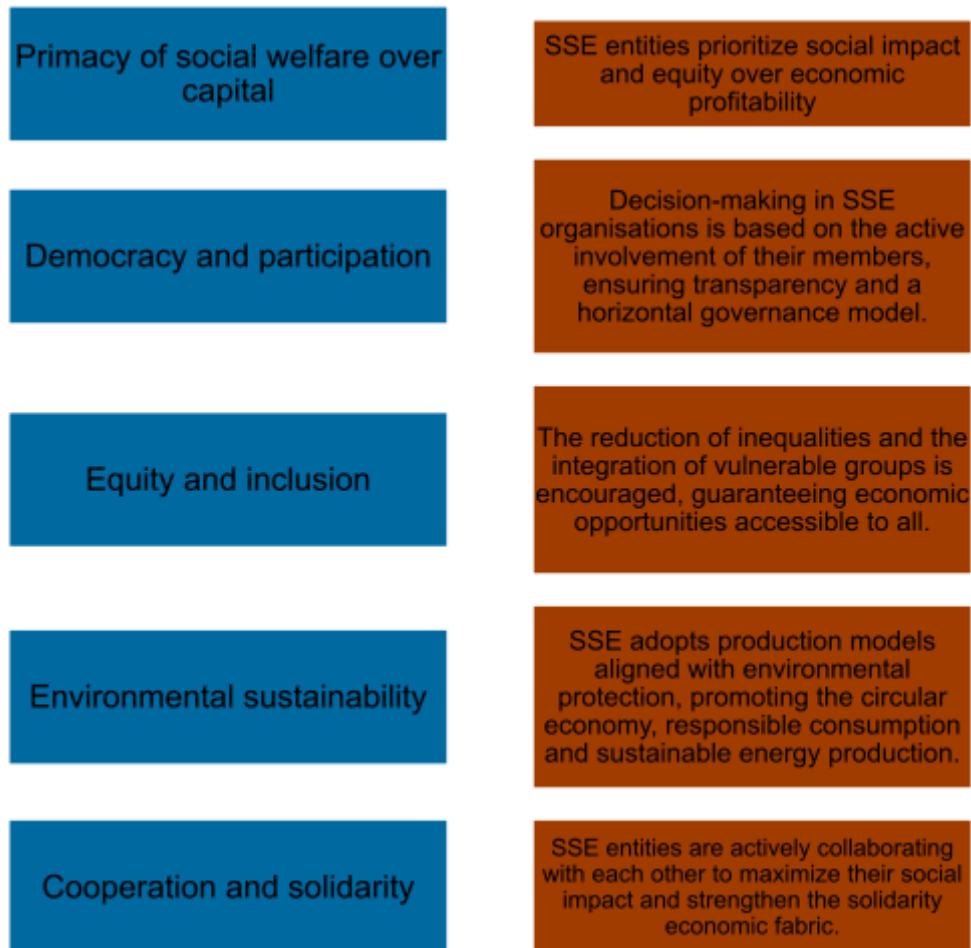
While SSE and the Social Economy share fundamental values, SSE extends the reach of the traditional model by incorporating a more transformative and participatory approach. The social economy focuses on entities such as cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations which, although operating for social purposes, do not necessarily challenge the logic of the prevailing economic system. In contrast, the SSE is committed to a more equitable redistribution of resources, the promotion of solidarity and self-management of common goods, strengthening community networks and promoting alternative economic models such as social markets, local currencies and digital cooperatives.



2.2 Main Principles of the SSE

The SSE is based on a number of principles that define its operation and differentiate it from conventional economic models:

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)



2.3 Practical Application of the SSE

2.3.1 Sustainable and Collaborative Production

One of the sectors where SSE has the greatest impact is sustainable production. Many cooperatives and producer networks have adopted principles of agroecology, local production and collaborative distribution to ensure healthy and sustainable products. Examples are agro-ecological cooperatives and circular economy initiatives, which reuse materials and minimize waste.

2.3.2 Responsible Consumption Networks

The SSE promotes the creation of responsible consumption networks that allow people to access ethical, sustainable and local goods and services. These networks strengthen local economies and reduce dependence on large corporations. Social markets and consumer cooperatives are successful examples of this model.

2.3.3 Ethical Funding

The financial sector has also been impacted by SSE through ethical banking and social investment funds. These entities channel resources to projects with positive social and environmental impact, moving away from financial speculation and promoting accessible and supportive credit models.

2.4 Examples of Success and Innovative Models

At the global level, SSE has been able to consolidate itself in various sectors with initiatives that have demonstrated its viability and transformative capacity. Some examples include:

Institution	Example
<u>Som Energia</u> (Spain)	Renewable energy cooperative with a democratic management model, which has promoted the decentralization of the electricity market and citizen self-management.
<u>Enercoop</u> (France)	Participatory renewable electricity cooperative, where consumers become co-producers of clean energy, reducing their dependence on traditional companies.
<u>Cooperative Longo Maï</u> (Europe)	Network of self-managed agricultural and community cooperatives that combine agro-ecological production with a community life model based on self-sufficiency and sustainability.
<u>La Louve</u> (France)	Self-managed cooperative supermarket, where consumers are both owners and workers, guaranteeing fair prices and quality products.
<u>Banco Palmas</u> (Brasil)	Community bank that has developed its own social currency to strengthen the local economy and facilitate access to credit for small entrepreneurs.

These examples reflect the diversity and adaptability of SSE, demonstrating its ability to generate positive change in different sectors and territorial contexts. With an approach based on cooperation, sustainability and democratic participation, SSE is emerging as a key economic model for building more equitable and resilient societies.

Section 3: Contextualization of SSE in Europe

3.1 History and Evolution of SSE in Europe

The origins of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Europe go back to the 19th century, when cooperatives and mutual societies emerged as a response to the difficult working conditions resulting from the Industrial Revolution. In countries such as the UK, France and Germany, workers began to organize themselves into solidarity associations to access essential goods and services under cooperative and self-managed models.

Throughout the twentieth century, the SSE was consolidated with the creation of legislative frameworks and institutional structures that favored its growth. Cooperatives experienced a boom in sectors such as agriculture, banking and housing, and became particularly relevant after the Second World War when European economies adopted more participatory and social approaches to reconstruction. During this period, entities such as production and consumption cooperatives, cooperative banks and workers' associations developed, which served as the basis for an alternative economic model to traditional capitalism.

With the financial crisis of 2008, SSE took on even greater prominence. While many conventional enterprises faced difficulties or disappeared, SSE entities showed remarkable resilience, thanks to their structure based on solidarity and the reinvestment of profits in collective welfare. In the 21st century, SSE has been integrated into the sustainable development strategies of the European Union, with financial support initiatives and specific regulations that seek to consolidate its growth in different economic sectors.

3.2 European Organisations for the Promotion of SSE

Various organisations have played a key role in promoting and strengthening the SSE in Europe. These entities work in the implementation of public policies, the promotion of intercooperation and the defense of the sector before national and international organizations:

- **RIPESS Europe:** Network that brings together SSE initiatives at continental level, promoting transnational cooperation and the construction of public policies favourable to the sector.
- **REAS Red de Redes (Spain):** Organization that promotes inter-cooperation between SSE entities in Spain, promoting alternative economic models based on equity and sustainability.
- **RTES (France):** Network of Territories for a Solidarity Economy, which promotes the integration of SSE in local and regional public policies.

- **CRESS (France):** SSE Regional Chambers, which represent and support SSE entities at the territorial level, facilitating their visibility and promoting collaboration with government institutions and the private sector.

3.3 The SSE and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SSE is closely linked to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through its principles and practices, it actively contributes to the achievement of a number of global goals, including:

- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): SSE creates inclusive and sustainable employment, especially in sectors such as renewable energy, circular economy and social services.
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): Consumer cooperatives and recycling initiatives driven by the SSE promote ethical supply chains and circular economy models.
- SDG 13 (Climate Action): Projects like Som Energia and Enercoop lead the transition to clean energy, contributing to climate change mitigation.
- SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): SSE works to integrate marginalized groups into the economy, promoting equity and social justice.



3.4 Challenges of SSE in Europe

Despite its consolidation and growth, the SSE in Europe faces major challenges that limit its development:

- **Legal and normative recognition:** Although the SSE has specific regulatory frameworks in several countries, its implementation and recognition varies significantly between territories.
- **Access to finance:** Many SSE entities have difficulty accessing credit and financing, as traditional financial instruments do not always fit their business models.
- **Digital transformation:** Digitalisation is a challenge for many SSE entities, which must adapt to new technologies without losing their focus on democratic participation and solidarity.
- **Scalability and competitiveness:** Faced with markets dominated by large corporations, many SSE initiatives find it difficult to expand and compete without compromising their values and principles.
- **Incorporation in public policies:** Although the SSE is increasingly present on the political agenda, there is still a need to strengthen its recognition and provide it with more tools for its long-term development.

3.5 Opportunities for the SSE

Despite the challenges, SSE has several opportunities that can enhance its impact and consolidate its growth in Europe:

- **European Union Support:** Through funding programmes such as the European Social Fund and the EaSI (Employment and Social Innovation) programme, the EU promotes the growth of SSE.
- **Growing demand for sustainable models:** Concern about the climate crisis and social inequality has led to increased interest in SSE-based products and services.
- **Innovation in business models:** The integration of SSE in emerging sectors, such as the circular economy and renewable energies, offers new development opportunities.
- **Greater inter-cooperation:** The strengthening of European SSE networks enables the sharing of good practices, improved access to finance and increased visibility for the sector.
- **Incorporation into local development strategies:** More and more cities and regions are including the SSE in their economic and social development plans, favouring public procurement with criteria of solidarity economy.

3.6 Outstanding examples of SSE in Europe

The SSE has been successful in consolidating itself in various economic and social sectors across Europe. Some examples of success include:

Institution	Example
Enercoop (France)	Renewable energy cooperative with a participatory governance model, where consumers are co-producers of clean energy.
Fiare Banca Ética (Spain)	Cooperative financial institution operating under the principles of ethical banking, financing projects with positive social impact.
SCOPs (France)	Cooperative Production Societies, in which the workers are owners of the enterprises and participate actively in their management.
Community Land Trust (Belgium)	Collective land ownership initiative that ensures access to affordable housing and prevents real estate speculation.
Ciclofficina (Italy)	Network of community bicycle repair shops, promoting sustainable mobility and the circular economy.

These examples reflect the positive impact of SSE in key sectors and its ability to provide innovative and sustainable solutions to contemporary economic and social challenges.

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:

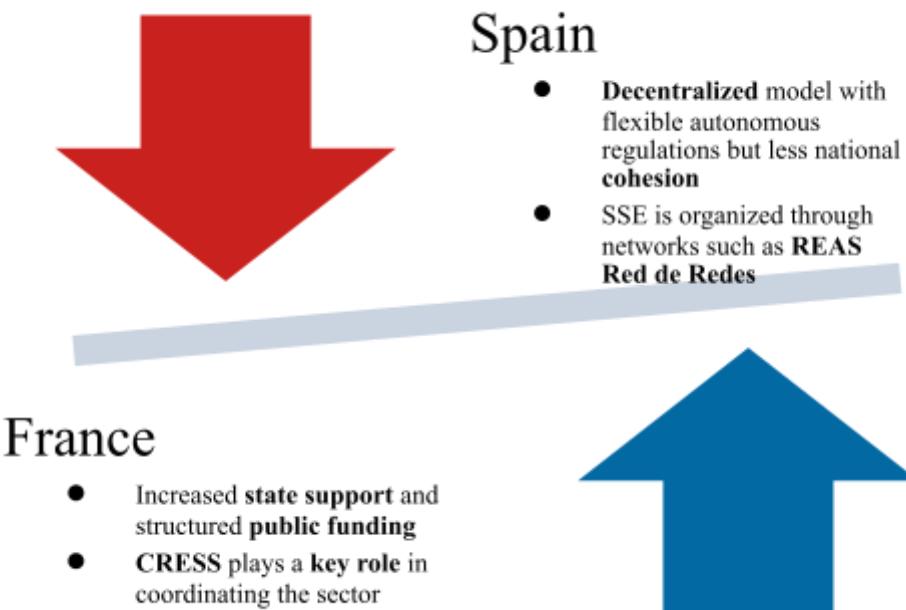
- ✓ SSE accounts for **14% of private employment** in some regions.

- ✓ 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.



Increased institutional support:
The EU offers new financing and growth opportunities for SSE.



Development of local and proximity markets: growth of local consumer networks and solidarity marketing channels.



Promotion of responsible public procurement: greater inclusion of social and environmental clauses in public sector procurement.



Inter-cooperation and support networks:
strengthening partnerships and synergies between SSE entities extends their impact and long-term sustainability.



Growing interest in sustainable economic models: increase in responsible consumption.

Section 5: Legislative Context of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

5.1 The SSE Regulatory Framework in Spain

The Social and Solidarity Economy in Spain has a consolidated regulatory framework that gives it legal recognition and institutional support. **Law 5/2011 on the Social Economy** is the main reference in this area, establishing principles and criteria for entities operating under this model, including cooperatives, labour societies, mutual funds and other forms of economic organization for social purposes.

5.1.1 Social Economy Law 5/2011

Law 5/2011 constitutes the central axis of the development of SSE in Spain. Among its most important provisions are:

- **Official recognition** of the SSE as an economic sector with its own characteristics.
- **Clear definition** of entities that are part of the SSE ecosystem.
- **Promotion of access to finance and credit**, facilitating the sustainability of SSE entities.
- **Implementation of tax incentives and specific support programmes** to strengthen the sector.

5.1.2 Regional Laws

Due to the decentralized structure of the Spanish State, several autonomous communities have developed their own regulations to strengthen the SSE in their territories. Examples of this include:

- **Catalan Cooperatives Law**, which promotes inter-cooperation and financing adapted to SSE entities.
- **Regulation in the Valencian Community**, which gives priority to public procurement with SSE entities.
- **Social Economy Strategy of Navarra**, focused on the inclusion of SSE in regional development policies.

5.1.3 Impact of National Policies

The recognition and institutional strengthening of SSE in Spain has allowed a significant expansion of its presence in various economic and social sectors. The implementation of national policies has facilitated the access of SSE entities to new financing opportunities, facilitating their consolidation and growth.

One of the main impacts of these policies has been an **increase in the generation of stable and quality employment**. SSE entities have proven to be more resilient in times of economic crisis, as they prioritize job stability and the equitable distribution of resources. Currently, the sector represents approximately **10% of the national GDP**.

and employs more than **2 million people**, consolidating as a key actor in the Spanish economy.

In addition, institutional support has enabled the SSE to **strengthen its access to funding**, both at state level and through European funds. Programmes such as the **ERDF fund** and **EaSI programme (Employment and Social Innovation)** have facilitated investment in social economy projects, encouraging the creation of new entrepreneurial initiatives with positive social and environmental impact.

Another important development has been the **integration of SSE in public procurement**, promoting its participation in tenders from local and autonomous authorities. The introduction of social and environmental clauses in public procurement has made it possible for cooperatives, integration firms and other SSE entities to enter into contracts with administrations; Contributing to the strengthening of the local economic fabric and the generation of inclusive employment.

Finally, national policies have encouraged **inter-cooperation and the development of SSE networks**, facilitating joint work between entities in the sector. Initiatives such as **Social Markets** and the promotion of **inter-cooperative cooperation** have created stronger and more resilient economic ecosystems, where collaboration is a key element for growth in the sector.

Despite these advances, there is still a need to strengthen the implementation of these policies, to improve coordination with the regional regulations and to continue working on the removal of administrative barriers that hinder the development of new entities within the sector.

Institutional recognition has made it possible to consolidate the SSE in Spain through various funding initiatives, social entrepreneurship programmes and access to European funds. These policies have boosted the sector's visibility, favouring its expansion in different areas of the economy.

5.2 The SSE Regulatory Framework in France

France has been a pioneer in the regulation of SSE at the European level. Its **SSE law of 2014** established a comprehensive framework for cooperatives, mutuals, associations and social enterprises, strengthening their role in the country's economy.

5.2.1 SSE Law of 2014

This law has strengthened the SSE sector by introducing specific financing mechanisms, tax incentives and criteria for responsible procurement. It has also promoted the creation of territorial representative bodies, such as the **Regional Chambers of the SSE (CRESS)**, which facilitate the development of the sector at local and regional level.

5.2.2 Social Clauses in Public Procurement

One of the most significant developments in France has been the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in public procurement. These measures allow a portion of public sector contracts to be allocated to SSE companies, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic models.

5.2.3 Implementation Results

Since the adoption of the SSE Law, the sector has experienced remarkable growth, with greater visibility, wider access to public and private funds, and an increase in the number of entities operating under this model.

5.3 Regulation and Institutional Support in Europe

5.3.1 European Recognition

The European Union has promoted SSE as a key pillar of sustainable economic development. Some of its main initiatives include:

- **European Action Plan for SSE**, which sets out financing and technical support strategies.
- **Structural and Investment Funds**, targeting SSE projects in different economic areas.
- **Inclusion of SSE in the European Pillar of Social Rights**, recognising its role in social cohesion and decent employment.

5.3.2 Support Programmes

Some European programmes supporting the development of SSE are:

- **EaSI Programme (Employment and Social Innovation)**: Supports SSE projects in employment, social inclusion and microfinance.
- **ERDF funds**: Funding for innovative initiatives in the field of SSE.
- **Horizon Europe**: Research and innovation programme with resources for solidarity economy models.

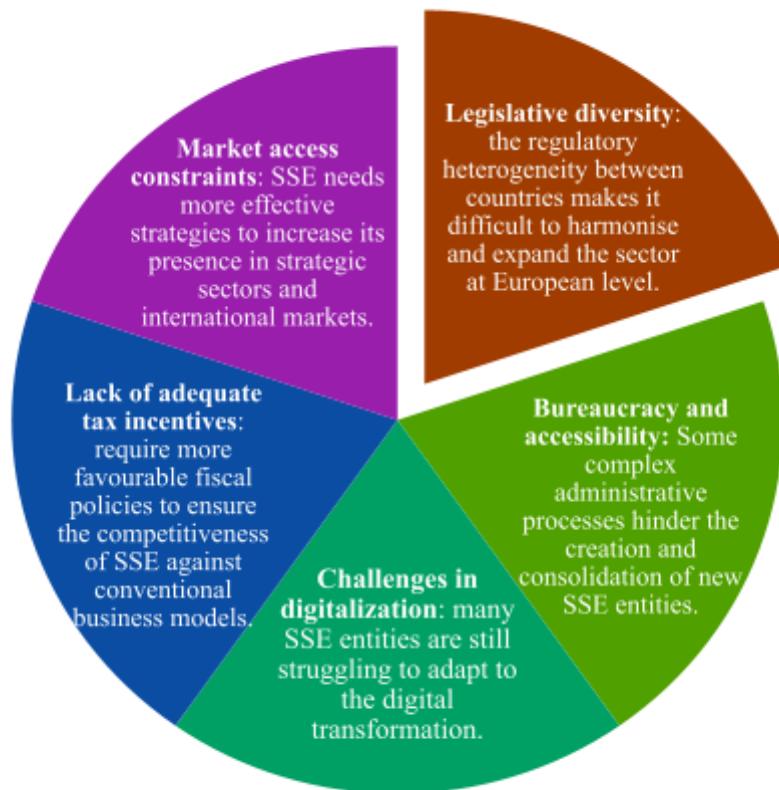
5.3.3 Responsible Public Procurement in Europe

Public procurement has been a key tool in promoting SSE within the EU. Through various directives, measures such as:

- **Inclusion of sustainability and social responsibility criteria** in public tenders.
- **Incentives for SSE firms** to participate in public tenders.
- **Increased transparency and accountability** in public procurement processes.

5.4 Challenges and Opportunities of the Policy Framework

5.4.1 Challenges



5.4.2 Opportunities



Expansion of responsible public procurement

what could increase the SSE's participation in the state and local economy



Integration of SSE in economic recovery plans

Consolidating its role in post-crisis reconstruction



Increased access to public and private finance

through European programmes and specialised funds



Growing interest in sustainable and equitable economic models, favouring the demand for goods and services generated by SSE

fostering the demand for goods and services generated by SSE



Increased inter-cooperation and collaborative networks

This enables the sector to be strengthened at national and international level

5.5 Examples of Successful Implementation

5.5.1 Spain

- **Ethical public procurement initiative in Barcelona**, which has enabled cooperatives to access municipal contracts in key sectors.
- **Social clauses in the public procurement of the City of Madrid**, benefiting SSE companies in the provision of social and environmental services.

5.5.2 France

- **CRESS (Regional Chambers of the SSE)**, which have developed effective public procurement strategies to strengthen the sector.
- **French Government's SSE Investment Fund**, which finances social innovation and solidarity economy projects.

These examples reflect how legislation and institutional support can strengthen the impact of SSE and consolidate its role in the global economy.

Section 6: Practical Application of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in the Local Context

6.1 Strategies for Identifying Local Opportunities in SSE

6.1.1 Participatory Diagnosis

Participatory diagnosis is a key process for identifying opportunities in SSE. It is based on the collection of information through analysis of the local context, consultation with the community and identification of unmet needs. This approach makes it possible to develop solutions adapted to the territorial reality and the resources available in each environment.

Methodology of participatory diagnosis:

- ✓ **Mapping key actors:** Identification of cooperatives, associations and social enterprises active in the territory.
- ✓ **Needs analysis:** Evaluation of goods and services that can be developed under SSE models.
- ✓ **Spaces for citizen consultation:** Workshops, surveys and community meetings to collect perspectives and demands of the population.
- ✓ **Social innovation strategies:** Creation of initiatives based on participation and co-creation to solve local problems.

6.1.2 Construction of Local Networks

Inter-cooperation and networking are essential in SSE, as they strengthen initiatives and improve their long-term sustainability. Collaboration between different entities fosters synergies, facilitates access to resources and optimizes services offered to the community.

Key Example: Land Banks

Land banks are a relevant strategy within the SSE that facilitates access to disused agricultural land, promoting its sustainable exploitation and avoiding real estate speculation. Through these banks, the abandoned land can be used by agro-ecological cooperatives, young farmers and solidarity economy projects, promoting local production and community supply of healthy food.

In Spain, some autonomous communities have promoted land banks to connect owners with small producers under sustainability criteria and social agriculture promotion. A prominent example is the **Land Bank of Galicia**, which has allowed the recovery of thousands of hectares for agroecological production.

Examples of local networks in SSE:

- **Social markets:** Spaces for exchange between responsible producers and consumers.
- **SSE clusters:** Sectoral clusters for improved competitiveness and collaborative innovation.
- **Time banks:** Service exchange networks without monetary intermediation.

6.1.3 Fostering Participatory Governance

SSE organisations often adopt models of democratic governance, where workers and partners are actively involved in decision-making. This promotes greater commitment, transparency and shared management responsibility.

Tools for participatory governance:

- **Open assemblies and deliberative processes** that allow for collective decision-making.
- **Accountability mechanisms and community evaluation** to ensure transparency.
- **Use of technologies for collective decision-making** in cooperatives and associations.
- **Development of participatory regulatory frameworks** that integrate SSE into public policies.

6.2 Practical Tools for Implementing the SSE

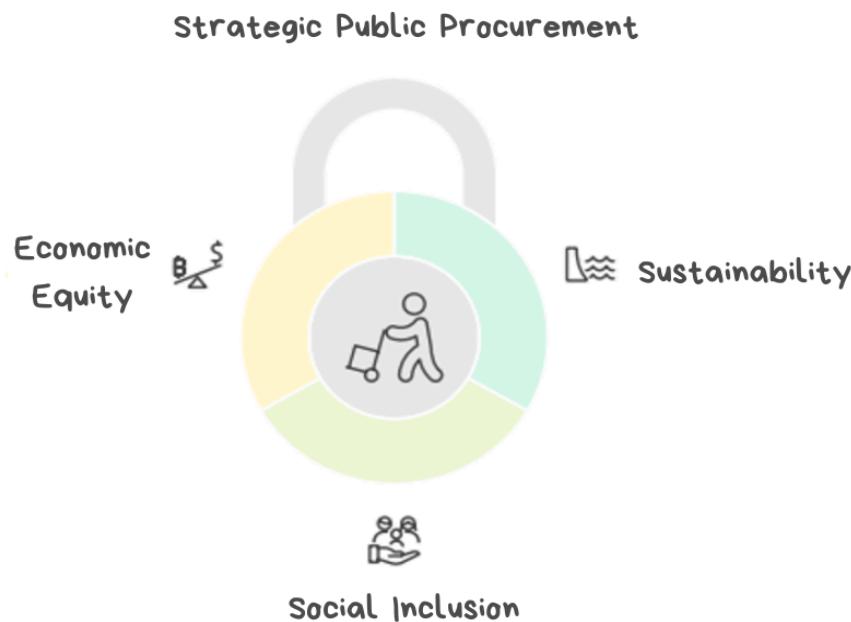
6.2.1 Audit and Social Balance Sheet

The Social Balance is a key tool for measuring the impact of SSE entities in terms of equity, sustainability and democratic governance. In Spain, the **Alternative and Solidarity Economy Network (REAS)** has developed a social balance model based on indicators of economic justice, gender equity and environmental respect. This audit allows organizations to assess their impact beyond financial criteria and demonstrate their commitment to SSE values.

6.2.2 Strategic Public Procurement

Strategic public procurement is a key instrument for strengthening SSE at the local level. Through the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in public contracts, governments can direct their investments towards entities that prioritize social impact, sustainability and economic equity.

This approach redirects public spending to generate tangible benefits in the community, ensuring that resources are directed to businesses and organizations committed to the



common good. Rather than considering price alone as a criterion for award, strategic public procurement values the quality of employment, environmental impact and contribution to social cohesion of funded projects.

In addition, responsible public procurement acts as a lever for change towards a more sustainable and inclusive economic model. It enables governments to foster social innovation by supporting entrepreneurial initiatives that help solve social problems such as unemployment, social exclusion or environmental degradation.

Benefits of Strategic Public Procurement for SSE:

- ✓ **Promotion of inclusive employment:** Promotion of the employment of people at risk of exclusion through social clauses.
- ✓ **Promotion of the circular economy:** Prioritization of projects that minimize waste and maximize the reuse of materials.
- ✓ **Environmental sustainability:** Incentives for companies to reduce their ecological footprint through renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- ✓ **Boosting the local economy:** Favouring small cooperatives and SSE enterprises over large multinationals.

Key strategies for implementation:

- **Market reserve:** Establishment of specific public procurement quotas for cooperatives and labour insertion enterprises.
- **Incorporation of ethical and environmental criteria:** Demand for responsible practices in public tenders and awards.
- **Creation of access platforms:** Development of digital tools to facilitate the participation of SSE entities in public tenders.
- **Public-community partnership:** Generation of alliances between administrations and SSE to design recruitment strategies aligned with the social needs of the territory.

Example of good practice:

- **Barcelona City Council:** Implementation of social clauses in public procurement to promote SSE. More information at: Barcelona Activa - Economía Social y Solidaria.
- **SSE law in France:** Regulatory framework requiring the inclusion of SSE in public procurement. Consult the legal text in: [Legifrance - Loi ESS 2014](#) In Spain, several municipalities have implemented responsible public procurement policies to strengthen the SSE. The Barcelona City Council, for example, has included social clauses in its tenders, favouring the award of contracts to cooperatives and social integration enterprises. This type of initiatives has allowed entities committed to work inclusion and sustainability access public resources, generating a positive impact on the community.

In France, the Social and Solidarity Economy Act of 2014 has been key to promoting responsible public procurement by requiring that a percentage of public contracts be allocated to SSE companies. This legal framework has allowed the sector to grow significantly and has consolidated SSE as a pillar of the French economy.

Strategic public procurement not only strengthens the SSE, but also enhances transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, ensuring that investments benefit society as a whole, not just large corporations. Its effective implementation

represents a unique opportunity to transform local economies and move towards a more just and equitable model.

Public procurement is a key mechanism for strengthening SSE at the local level. Through social and environmental clauses in public contracts, administrations can encourage the participation of SSE entities in the provision of essential services.

Strategic public procurement makes it possible to align procurement processes with sustainable development policies, ensuring that public resources are used to generate positive social impact. SSE is a key actor in this transformation, as its entities prioritize equity, sustainability and social welfare over profit.

Key strategies for implementing strategic public procurement:

- **Market reserve:** Specific public procurement quotas for cooperatives and integration firms.
- **Sustainability criteria:** Inclusion of environmental and fair trade requirements in tenders.
- **Promotion of the circular economy:** Preference to entities that promote the reuse and recycling of products.
- **Social clauses:** Prioritization of suppliers that guarantee decent working conditions and adopt socially responsible practices.



- **Public-community partnership:** Creating policy frameworks that facilitate cooperation between administrations and SSE entities.

6.3 Key Areas of SSE Implementation

6.3.1 Agroecological Production and Sustainable Food

SSE boosts sustainable production and strengthens the local productive fabric. Through agricultural cooperatives and responsible consumption networks, models based on agroecology, food sovereignty and fair trade are promoted.

Outstanding example:

- **Ecollaures (Valencia, Spain):** An agro-ecological cooperative that links small producers with local consumers, reducing intermediaries and promoting a fair and sustainable food system.

6.3.2 Renewable Energy and Energy Communities

Energy cooperatives enable citizens to participate actively in the generation, distribution and consumption of renewable energies by promoting decentralization of the energy system.

Outstanding example:

- **EnergÉthic (France):** Energy cooperative in Brittany combining solar, wind and biomass with a participatory collective ownership model.

6.3.3 Fair Trade and Responsible Consumption

Fair trade and responsible consumption ensure decent working conditions, reduce environmental impact and strengthen local economies.

Outstanding example:

- **Cooperativa IDEAS (Spain):** Fair trade company that promotes ethical and sustainable products in local and national markets.

6.3.4 Cohousing and the Right to Housing

Access to housing is a fundamental right, and the SSE has developed innovative solutions through **co-housing** models and leasehold housing cooperatives. These initiatives allow for the collective management of housing spaces, avoiding real estate speculation and promoting self-sufficient communities.

Outstanding example:

- **Trabensol (Madrid, Spain):** Cooperative housing in lease of use that offers an affordable and sustainable alternative to traditional property.

6.4 Outstanding Examples of SSE in the Local Context

6.4.1 Spain

- [EnergÉtica Coop \(Castilla y León, Spain\)](#): Renewable energy cooperative self-managed by its partners.
- [Red de Huertos Urbanos de Madrid \(Spain\)](#): Community initiative promoting agro-ecological production in urban environments.
- [La Colmena que dice Sí \(Spain\)](#): Direct sales platform between local producers and responsible consumers.
- [La Borda \(Barcelona, Spain\)](#): Cooperative housing in use, pioneer in Spain, which offers an accessible and sustainable alternative to traditional property.

6.4.2 France

- [Le Galléco \(Britain\)](#): Additional local currency that strengthens trade and responsible consumption in the region.
- [Coopérative d'Activité et d'Emploi \(CAE\), Nantes](#): Platform to support entrepreneurs within the SSE.
- [La Cagette \(Montpellier\)](#): Cooperative supermarket run by its own customers and workers.
- [Les Habilles \(France\)](#): Collaborative housing project in Lyon that promotes self-management and energy efficiency in the design of living spaces.

In addition, responsible public procurement plays a key role in strengthening these projects by facilitating access to funding and establishing criteria that favour initiatives with positive social impact. Through procurement policies aligned with the SSE, governments can promote cooperative housing and ensure that housing solutions are affordable and sustainable.

The cohousing model not only ensures access to housing, but also strengthens community life, reduces costs through shared resource management and promotes social integration of different groups.

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. Airbnb 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.

Section 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Main Conclusions

SSE has established itself as a viable and transformative alternative to traditional economic models. Throughout the manual, its principles, application tools and success stories have been analysed in different contexts.

8.1.1 The Transformative Impact of SSE

SSE has a significant impact on the economy and society, generating decent employment, strengthening social cohesion and promoting environmental sustainability. Its capacity to respond to economic and social crises has been key in its consolidation as an alternative model.

8.1.2 Diversity of Experiences and Contexts

The SSE is not a single model, but a diverse ecosystem that adapts to local realities. From agro-ecological cooperatives to digital solidarity platforms, SSE manifests itself in multiple forms depending on the context in which it operates.

8.1.3 The Fundamental Role of Governance and Networks

Inter-cooperation and democratic participation are key elements in the SSE. Participatory governance strengthens the resilience of organizations and encourages the building of collaborative networks that allow for sharing resources and experiences.

8.2 Identified Challenges

Despite its positive impact, the SSE faces challenges that hinder its expansion and consolidation, such as limited visibility, challenges in the digital age, lack of institutional recognition and integration of the care economy.

8.2.1 Limited Visibility

SSE still lacks a strong media and social presence in many countries, which makes it difficult to recognize as a viable economic alternative.

8.2.2 Challenges in the Digital Age

Digitalization presents opportunities, but also challenges for SSE. Many institutions have difficulties adapting to new technologies and competing with conventional digital platforms. The creation of cooperative platforms and training in digital tools are key strategies to meet this challenge.

8.2.3 Lack of Institutional Recognition in Some Contexts

Although in countries such as France and Spain the SSE has specific regulatory frameworks, in many others it is still not recognized as a distinct economic sector. Lack of favourable public policies and the absence of fiscal incentives limit their development.

8.2.4 Care Economy

One of the remaining challenges is the integration of the care economy into the SSE. This sector, which is fundamental to social welfare, remains undervalued and in many cases precarious. SSE can provide sustainable and equitable solutions through care cooperatives and models of social co-responsibility.

8.3 Recommendations for Strengthening the SSE

In order to strengthen the SSE and broaden its impact on the economy and society, it is essential to implement strategies that will consolidate its model and expand its reach. These strategies should focus on increasing their visibility, improving institutional support, fostering inter-entity cooperation and strengthening the capacity of the actors involved. Below are some priority lines of action for strengthening the SSE.

To strengthen the SSE and broaden its impact, it is essential to implement strategies that address current challenges and enhance its transformative capacity in society. The following are some of the main actions recommended:

8.3.1 Awareness and Promotion

Lack of knowledge about SSE remains one of the main barriers to its expansion. Increasing its visibility through communication campaigns, education in solidarity economy and digital media content generation is key to strengthening its positioning in society. To achieve this, the following actions are proposed:

- **Dissemination through the media:** Create spaces in the press, radio, television and digital platforms to disseminate successful SSE experiences.
- **Awareness raising campaigns:** Organize events and activities that bring citizens closer to responsible consumption, ethical finance and cooperativism.
- **Incorporation of SSE in the education system:** Introduce SSE content into the curricula of schools, institutes and universities to raise awareness from an early age.
- **Promotion of digital tools:** Develop web platforms and applications that facilitate access to information on SSE networks, social markets and opportunities for citizen participation.

One of the main challenges of the SSE is its low visibility compared to the dominant economic model. In order to increase their recognition and foster social acceptance, it is crucial to design effective communication strategies that include:

- **Information and educational campaigns** aimed at the citizenry, with the aim of spreading the values and benefits of SSE.
- **Use of digital media and social networks** to amplify the reach of SSE initiatives and generate an active community of consumers and promoters.

- **Incorporation of SSE in education** through educational programmes in schools and universities, ensuring that new generations are aware of this alternative economic model.
- **Creation of spaces for meeting and dialogue**, such as fairs, social markets and thematic forums, which allow citizens to experience first-hand the opportunities offered by SSE.

8.3.2 Political and Institutional Support

Public administrations play a key role in the consolidation of the SSE. To achieve a favourable environment, governments need to adopt public policies that promote their development and recognize their impact on the economy and social welfare. Some of the measures that can be implemented include:

- **Development of specific policy frameworks:** Legislative reforms that ensure the recognition and promotion of SSE, ensuring its inclusion in sustainable development strategies.
- **Fiscal and financial incentives:** Establishment of tax benefits for SSE entities and creation of specific investment funds for solidarity economy projects.
- **Responsible public procurement:** Integrate social and environmental clauses in public contracts to prioritize the participation of SSE entities in the provision of goods and services.
- **Establishment of SSE observatories:** Monitoring and evaluation spaces to analyse the impact of the sector and design appropriate policies for its strengthening.
- **Partnerships between administrations and SSE networks:** Generation of mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between governments and sector entities to ensure their recognition on the public agenda.

The support of public institutions is essential to consolidate the SSE as a legitimate and viable economic model. For this, it is recommended:

- **Development of specific public policies** that integrate SSE into economic and social development strategies at local, regional and national levels.
- **Implementation of fiscal and financial incentives** to facilitate the creation and consolidation of SSE entities.
- **Promotion of responsible public procurement**, ensuring that administrations prioritize the purchase of goods and services from SSE companies.
- **Strengthening public-community collaboration networks**, allowing for greater interaction between local governments, SSE entities and civil society.

8.3.3 Encouraging Collaboration

Inter-cooperation between SSE entities is a fundamental pillar for its sustainability. Local, national and international networking enables knowledge sharing, generating synergies and access to funding opportunities. To strengthen collaboration in SSE, the following strategies are proposed:

- **Creation of platforms for inter-cooperation:** Digital and physical spaces where SSE entities can share experiences, resources and projects in common.
- **Support for social markets:** Strengthening solidarity-based economic circuits that facilitate the responsible consumption and marketing of SSE products and services.
- **Development of sectoral networks:** Establishment of sector-specific clusters (renewable energy, agro-ecology, cooperative housing, etc.) to promote specialization and joint growth.
- **Partnerships with private entities and NGOs:** Promotion of collaborative agreements with non-profit organizations and socially responsible companies to broaden the impact of SSE.
- **Promotion of international cooperation:** Participation in transnational cooperation programmes that enable the transfer of good practices and access to global financing.

Networking is one of the strengths of SSE. To enhance its impact and resilience, it is essential to encourage inter-cooperation through:

- **Establishment and strengthening of local, national and international SSE networks** to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources.
- **Development of digital platforms for inter-cooperation**, where entities can share services, products and experiences.
- **Promotion of collaboration between different sectors** of the SSE, such as cooperatives, integration enterprises, associations and mutual societies, promoting joint development strategies.
- **Establishment of alliances with key actors**, such as universities, research centres and private companies committed to the solidarity economy.

8.3.4 Formation and Training

The professionalization of SSE actors is essential to ensure its growth and sustainability. Investing in the training of social entrepreneurs, cooperative managers and workers in the sector will strengthen their capacities and improve the efficiency of their projects. Some of the actions needed in this area include:

- **Development of specific training programmes:** Creation of courses and workshops on cooperative management, ethical financing, democratic governance and circular economy.

- **Incorporation of SSE in higher education:** Inclusion of the solidarity economy in university programs and technical training centers to strengthen knowledge generation in the sector.
- **Online learning platforms:** Development of digital training resources accessible to those interested in undertaking SSE.
- **Training in digital tools:** Training in the use of technological platforms and digital networks to improve the competitiveness of SSE entities.
- **Network of mentors and technical advice:** Creation of a support system where experts and professionals from the sector provide support for new SSE initiatives.

Strengthening the SSE involves the professionalization of its actors. For this, it is necessary to develop training programmes that include:

- **Courses and workshops specialising in SSE,** addressing topics such as cooperative management, circular economy, social innovation and responsible marketing.
- **Training in digital skills,** allowing SSE entities to take advantage of new technologies to improve their operability and visibility.
- **Integration of SSE in academic curricula,** promoting its teaching at universities, business schools and vocational training centres.
- **Promotion of collaborative learning,** through mentoring and accompaniment programmes between established entities and new SSE enterprises.



8.4 Future Perspectives of the SSE

The future of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is linked to its ability to adapt to the structural changes facing society, such as digitalisation, ecological transition, developments in labour markets and new forms of work organization. In a global context where economic inequalities and the environmental impact of traditional production patterns have become priority concerns, SSE is emerging as a viable and sustainable model for addressing these challenges. The following are some of the key factors that will shape the evolution of SSE in the coming years.

8.4.1 Digital Innovation and Collaborative Economy

One of the great challenges and opportunities for SSE is digital transformation. The emergence of new technologies has changed the way people work, consume and interact in society. While the traditional model of digital economy has favoured the concentration of power in large corporations, SSE has the opportunity to develop digital alternatives that promote democratic participation and equitable redistribution of benefits.

The promotion of cooperative digital platforms, based on self-management and shared ownership, is one of the main strategies to ensure that digitalization benefits communities rather than perpetuate labor exploitation and precarization. Examples of this are initiatives such as **CoopCycle**, a sharing platform that operates under a cooperative model, or **Fairbnb**, which promotes sustainable tourism with reinvestment in local communities.

In addition, the SSE must incorporate digital tools to improve the management and transparency of its entities, from systems of participatory governance based on blockchain technology to collective financing platforms (crowdfunding) to facilitate access to resources for new solidarity projects. It is also essential to develop strategies for bridging the digital divide in those SSE sectors that still rely on more traditional working methods.

8.4.2 Expansion of Ethical Consumption

The growing interest in responsible consumption and social impact of products and services is a trend that SSE can leverage to expand its reach. In recent years, increasing environmental and social awareness has led to a change in consumer habits, with increased demand for fair trade products, renewable energy, ethical banking and social markets.

To consolidate this growth, SSE must strengthen the distribution infrastructure of its products and services. The creation of **alternative trade networks**, the consolidation of social markets and the implementation of specific certifications for SSE products can increase their visibility and facilitate their access to a wider audience.

Collaborative consumption initiatives, where people share or exchange goods and services without corporate intermediaries, also represent an opportunity for expansion. Models such as **collective purchasing groups**, consumer cooperatives and social

currencies can contribute to more resilient economies that are less dependent on large globalized markets.

8.4.3 Integration in Global Policies

The role of SSE in sustainable development strategies is gaining increasing recognition in international forums. Organisations such as the UN, the ILO and the European Union have begun to highlight the importance of SSE in combating poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. The adoption of comprehensive policies that include SSE in their economic and social development strategies is a fundamental step to ensure its consolidation.

SSE is directly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in areas such as decent work, responsible production and reducing inequalities. In order to take advantage of this favourable context, it is essential that SSE networks strengthen their presence in international governance spaces, Promoting recognition of their impact and demanding policies that facilitate their access to funding and inclusion in international cooperation programmes.

8.4.4 Implementation of Strategic Public Procurement

Strategic public procurement represents one of the greatest opportunities for SSE in terms of consolidation and expansion. Governments and public administrations manage large volumes of procurement of goods and services, and the inclusion of social and environmental criteria in these processes can have a significant impact on the social economy.

Integrating SSE into public procurement allows for the reorientation of public resources towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns. Some countries have already taken steps in this direction by introducing **social clauses in public contracts**, which favour the award of contracts to cooperatives, insertion enterprises and solidarity economy entities. However, for these strategies to be effective, it is necessary to ensure that they are effectively implemented and that bureaucratic procedures do not exclude small SSE organizations.

Key actions to strengthen the SSE presence in public procurement include:

- **Market reserve:** Establish public procurement quotas exclusively for SSE entities, ensuring that a percentage of state contracts benefit cooperatives and integration enterprises.
- **Sustainability criteria:** Incorporate environmental, social and fair trade requirements in the bidding processes, prioritizing suppliers that comply with these principles.
- **Public-community partnerships:** Encourage cooperation between local governments and SSE entities for the design and delivery of public services under participatory models.
- **Transparency and monitoring:** Implement evaluation and accountability mechanisms to ensure that contracts awarded to the SSE actually generate positive social and environmental impact.

8.4.5 Strengthening the Community Fabric and Local Resilience

Beyond economic and policy aspects, the future of SSE is linked to its ability to strengthen community fabric and build networks of solidarity that strengthen community resilience. In a global context marked by climate crises, health crises and economic inequalities, SSE can play a key role in building more cohesive and self-reliant societies.

Solidarity economy initiatives have proved to be an effective tool for strengthening the economic sovereignty of territories, promoting local production and distribution models, facilitating energy self-sufficiency through **renewable energy cooperatives**, and ensuring access to decent housing through **co-housing and cooperative housing projects**.

To ensure its growth, the SSE must continue to rely on models of participatory governance, where communities are protagonists in decision-making about the use of their resources and the design of their local development. Collaboration between SSE entities, public administrations and citizens is key to consolidating these models and ensuring their sustainability over time.

8.5. Closure

The path to a more just, inclusive and sustainable economy involves strengthening SSE as a viable alternative model. Digitisation, the expansion of ethical consumption, integration into global policies and responsible public procurement are some of the pillars on which SSE can rely to consolidate its impact.

The **SSOLEIL** project, from which this handbook is derived, has highlighted the importance of transnational collaboration and exchange of experience to strengthen SSE. Experiences shared between Spain and France show that, when the right conditions are created, SSE can transform the local economy, generate decent jobs and foster more resilient societies.

This manual is not a closure, but a starting point for action. Every tool, strategy and case study presented here is an invitation to build a future where the economy is at the service of people and the planet. The challenge is great, but the transformative potential of SSE is even greater.

Section 9: Resources and Tools

This section collects links, digital tools and practical guides that complement the content of the eBook, guiding technicians, local agents and representatives of organizations in the implementation of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

9.1. Resources for Practical Application

	RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION	LINK
SPAIN	Contratación Pública Responsable	Platform with guides and tools to include social and environmental criteria in public tender processes	Contratación Pública Responsable
	REAS Red de Redes	Documents on social audit, social balance and good practices in SSE	REAS Red de Redes
	XES Cataluña	Training materials and examples of SSE applied in Cataluña, Spain	XESREAS
FRANCE	Solidarity Economy Movement (MES)	Resources on cooperatives, social clauses and local SSE policies	MES Francia
	RTES	Guides for municipalities and intercommunes on how to promote SSE	RTES Francia
EUROPE	SSE France	Organization that represents and promotes the SSE in France	SSE France
	RIPESS Europe	Intercontinental network connecting SSE actors, providing tools for networking and impact assessment	RIPESS Europe

9.2 Practical Guides and Tools

Some guides and reference documents are included to support the implementation of SSE:

- **Guía de Balance Social de REAS:** Tool to assess the social, environmental and economic impact of SSE entities. Available at: <https://reas.red/balance-social>
- **Manual de Contratación Pública Responsable:** Document explaining how to include social and environmental criteria in public procurement. Available at: <https://www.contratacionpublicaresponsable.org/>

- **Plataforma Pam a Pam:** Interactive map of SSE initiatives in Catalonia. Available at: <https://pamapam.org/>
- **Banco de Tierras de Galicia:** Tool that allows the reuse of disused land for agroecological projects. More information at: https://mediorural.xunta.gal/es/areas/estructuras_de_la_propiedad/gestion_de_tie_rra/banco_de_tierras
- **Guía de Auditoría Social:** Tool developed by REAS to assess the social, economic and environmental impact of SSE initiatives. Available at: REAS Auditoría Social
- **Kit de Recursos para Comunas y Municipios (RTES):** Manuals for implementing SSE projects in French local contexts. Link: [RTES Kit ESS](#)
- **Contratación Responsable (REAS):** Examples of tender documents, templates and social criteria to be included in public procurement. Available at: Contratación Responsable

Section 10: Glossary of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) Terms

Definitions of key terms related to the **Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)** are included below, with the aim of facilitating the understanding of fundamental concepts used in this eBook.

C

- **Circular Economy:** economic model that seeks to reduce waste and reuse available resources, promoting sustainable systems at all stages of the production chain.
- **Cooperative Societies of Collective Interest (SCIC):** legal form in France which combines various actors (cooperatives, associations, companies) to develop projects with shared social and environmental benefits.

D

- **Democratic Governance:** Organizational management model in which all people involved have equal voice and vote in decision-making.

E

- **Energy Transition:** the process of transition towards sustainable energy systems, promoting the use of renewable sources and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

- **Ethical Finance:** a financial system that prioritizes responsible investments, promoting projects that generate positive impacts on society and the environment.

P

- **Pôles Territoriaux de Coopération Économique (PTCE):** local networks in France that bring together economic, social and public actors to develop SSE projects and strengthen local economies.

R

- **Responsible Consumption:** a practice that seeks to choose products and services considering their social, economic and environmental impact, promoting values such as sustainability and justice.
- **Responsible Public Procurement:** is a management model in which public administrations, when purchasing goods and services, incorporate social, environmental and ethical criteria into their selection and award processes. It aims to ensure that the use of public resources not only addresses economic efficiency, but also promotes sustainable development, decent employment and social inclusion. Through this approach, priority is given to the participation of entities that operate under principles of equity, sustainability and responsibility, such as cooperatives, insertion enterprises and other organizations linked to the Social and Solidarity Economy.

S

- **Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE):** a set of economic and social practices aimed at meeting human needs, based on the principles of equity, sustainability, cooperation and democracy.
- **Social Audit:** a tool to assess the economic, social and environmental impact of SSE entities, ensuring that their practices are aligned with the principles of solidarity and sustainability.
- **Social Clauses:** criteria included in public procurement processes that prioritize entities that promote social inclusion, decent employment and environmental sustainability.
- **Social Market:** network of SSE entities offering products and services aligned with ethical, solidarity and sustainable values.
- **Social Report:** an indicator that measures an organization's performance in social, economic and environmental terms, assessing its contribution to collective well-being and sustainability.

- **Solidarity Economy Networks:** connecting organizations and entities that promote SSE practices through collaboration and sharing of resources and experiences.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** the UN's global agenda of 17 goals designed to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

Section 11: Bibliography

The bibliography section brings together the sources used throughout the eBook, providing relevant references to delve into the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), its principles, tools and case studies. These references include academic papers, specialist network guides and public access digital platforms.

11.1. Main Sources

- **REAS Red de Redes**
 - **Carta de Principios de la Economía Solidaria** (Charter of Principles of the Solidarity Economy): Basic document detailing the six fundamental principles of SSE, applied in Spain.
 - **Auditoría Social** (Social Audit): Tool to assess the impact of SSE entities.
- **Solidarity Economy Movement (MES) France**
 - Resources and discussions on SSE in France, including models such as the SCIC and the PTCE.
- **RTES (Réseau des collectivités Territoriales pour une Économie Solidaire)**
 - **Kit of Communes and Intercommunes for the SSE**: Handbook for French local authorities wishing to implement SSE initiatives.
- **Social Economy Europe**
 - Reports and resources on SSE in the European context, including the relationship to SDGs and European Union policies.
- **Contratación Pública Responsable** (Responsible Public Procurement)
 - **Social and Environmental Clauses**: Practical guides and tools to promote strategic procurement for SSE.
- **XES (Xarxa d'Economia Solidària) Cataluña, Spain**
 - Documents and reference tools on solidarity economy in Cataluña, Spain.
- **CIRIEC-España (2022). Economía Social y Solidaria en Europa: Desafíos y Perspectivas.**

- **Unión Europea (2020).** *Plan de Acción para la Economía Social y Solidaria.*
- **RIPESS (2019).** *Guía de Buenas Prácticas en Economía Solidaria.*
- **CRESS (2020).** *Informe sobre la ESS en Francia.*
- **XES (2018).** *Manual de Economía Solidaria: Herramientas para la Transformación Social.*

11.2. Secondary and Complementary Sources

- **Ley 5/2011 de Economía Social (Social Economy Law 5/2011), Spain**
 - Legislative text regulating Social Economy entities in Spain, marking a milestone in their institutional recognition.
- **Loi relative à l'économie sociale et solidaire, France (2014)**
 - Legislative framework that consolidates the SSE as a key sector in the French economy.
- **Social Markets in Spain**
 - Ethical trade and responsible consumption networks.
- **Enercoop France**
 - Network of renewable energy cooperatives in France.
- **Som Energia**
 - Cooperative pioneer in renewable energies in Spain.
- **REAS Euskadi**
 - Territorial networks of SSE in the Basque Country, with specific resources for the creation of social markets and audits. used in this manual, along with other recommended materials to deepen the SSE.
- **CIRIEC-España (2022).** *Economía Social y Solidaria en Europa: Desafíos y Perspectivas.*
- **REAS (2021).** *Balance Social 2021: Indicadores de Impacto en la Economía Solidaria.*
- **Unión Europea (2020).** *Plan de Acción para la Economía Social y Solidaria.*
- **RIPESS (2019).** *Guía de Buenas Prácticas en Economía Solidaria.*
- **CRESS (2020).** *Informe sobre la ESS en Francia.*
- **XES (2018).** *Manual de Economía Solidaria: Herramientas para la Transformación Social.*

Annex I. Training Resources

- **Training Cards: Social and Solidarity Economy for Local Authorities**

Session 1: Introduction to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Objectives

- Understand what SSE is and its importance for local development.
- To know its fundamental principles and values.
- Reflect on their impact on the territory.

Contents

- **Origin and evolution of the SSE:** Cooperativism emerged in the 19th century as a response to the challenges of the Industrial Revolution. Over time, it has evolved to become a viable and sustainable economic alternative.
- **Fundamental Principles:** Values such as economic democracy, equity, sustainability and self-management make the difference with other models. Practical examples of their application will be analysed.
- **Differences with traditional economics:** Comparison with the conventional capitalist model, highlighting the social and sustainable approach of SSE. Individual cases where this difference is key will be reviewed.
- **Local impact and opportunities:** It will explore how SSE contributes to stable employment generation, community cohesion and sustainable development at the municipal level.

Examples and Case Studies

- **Pioneros de Rochdale:** Founder of the first modern cooperative in 1844, its model is still valid today.
- **REAS Red de Redes (Spain):** Organization that drives SSE through networks of collaboration and support at the municipal level.
- **Som Energia (Spain):** Renewable energy cooperative with thousands of partners, which has managed to transform the energy market with a participatory and sustainable model.

Methodology

- Presentation with visual support.
- Guided discussion on local experiences in SSE.
- Practical activity to identify close examples.

Materials

- Slide show presentation.
- Core document on SSE.

- Videos of real experiences.

Session 2: Normative Framework and Public Policies in Support of SSE

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Objectives

- Know the current legislation on SSE in Spain and Europe.
- Analyse how public procurement can boost SSE.
- Identify municipal strategies to promote this model.

Contents

- **SSE Regulation in Spain:** Analysis of the Social Economy Law 5/2011 and its application in different municipalities.
- **EU policies:** European SSE support strategies, funding programmes and guidelines for member states.
- **Strategic public procurement:** Implementation of social and environmental clauses in municipal tenders. Examples of good practices will be discussed.
- **Barriers and opportunities:** Challenges facing local governments and proposals to overcome them.

Examples and Case Studies

- **SSE law in France (2014):** Legislative framework that has driven the sector through funding and public procurement.
- **Public procurement in Madrid:** The reservation of public contracts to cooperatives has strengthened SSE and generated inclusive employment. One case in point is the management of school canteens by cooperatives, prioritizing healthy food and environmental sustainability.

Methodology

- Presentation and analysis of normative texts.
- Hands-on workshop on municipal strategies for SSE.
- Simulation of the implementation of social clauses.

Materials

- Current legislation and regulatory guides.
- Case studies of public procurement in SSE.

Session 3: Practical Implementation of SSE in the Local Context

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Objectives

- Learn to spot local opportunities for SSE.
- Know tools for their implementation at the municipal level.

- Explore successful experiences and their replicability.

Contents

- **Participatory diagnosis:** Methods for analysing local needs and key actors in SSE.
- **Models of participatory governance:** Strategies to involve citizens in economic decision-making.
- **Social balance sheet and audit:** Assessment of the impact of SSE in economic, social and environmental terms.
- **Good municipal practice:** Successful experiences of integrating SSE into local public policies.

Methodology

- Workshop on identifying opportunities in SSE.
- Study of experiences in Spain and France.
- Simulation of the application of social balance tools.

Materials

- Tool guide for municipalities.
- Map of key actors in the SSE.
- Formats for diagnosis and evaluation.

Session 4: SSE Sustainability Case Studies and Strategies

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Objectives

- Analyse national and international experiences in SSE.
- Understanding financing strategies and sustainable growth.
- Design a municipal action plan to promote SSE.

Contents

- **Success stories in SSE:** Innovative experiences in different sectors and their potential for replicability.
- **Ethical funding:** Options such as ethical banking, social investment funds and crowdfunding.
- **Growth strategies:** Methods to ensure the long-term sustainability of SSE initiatives.
- **Municipal action plans:** Development of roadmaps for the implementation of SSE in municipalities, with emphasis on planning and measuring impact.

Methodology

- Case analysis in groups.
- Workshop on financing models.
- Development of a municipal road map for SSE.

Materials

- Documented case studies.
- Templates for strategic planning.
- Resources on financing and institutional support.

• Formats for SSE Diagnosis and Evaluation

1. Introduction

Diagnosis and evaluation are key tools for understanding the state and impact of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in a territory. These formats allow municipalities and organizations to analyse the SSE ecosystem, identify opportunities for improvement and design strategies that strengthen its development.

2. Format 1: Diagnosis of the SSE in the Municipality

Objective

Determine the current status of SSE in a territory, identifying its scope, strengths and areas for improvement.

Key Indicators

- Number of SSE entities registered in the municipality.
- Economic sectors in which SSE operates.
- Access to funding and public procurement.
- Level of collaboration between the different actors in the SSE ecosystem.

Formatting Structure

1. General Information

- Name of the municipality.
- Responsible for diagnosis.
- Date on which the assessment is carried out.

2. Map of Actors

- Identification of cooperatives, associations and SSE entities.
- Relationship of these actors with public administration and other sectors.

3. Needs Detection

- Main problems identified in the community.
- Sectors with greater potential for SSE initiatives.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Identification of strengths and challenges of the SSE ecosystem in the municipality.
- Strategies to strengthen and expand SSE in the territory.

3. Format 2: SSE Project Impact Assessment

Objective

Measuring the social, economic and environmental impact of SSE projects to determine their effectiveness and sustainability.

Key Indicators

- Job creation and working conditions in SSE initiatives.
- Level of economic sustainability of the project.
- Environmental impact and resource efficiency.
- Social inclusion and gender equity in project management.
- Degree of community participation and democratic governance.

Formatting Structure

1. General Project Data

- Name of the project.
- Type of entity (cooperative, association, social enterprise).
- Project start date and duration.

2. Social Evaluation

- Number of persons directly and indirectly benefited.
- Employment and social inclusion strategies implemented.

3. Economic Evaluation

- Income generated and financial sustainability of the project.
- Sources of funding used.

4. Environmental Evaluation

- Measures taken for the efficient use of resources.
- Strategies to reduce the ecological footprint and promote sustainability.

- **Basic Document on the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)**

1. Introduction

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is an economic model that places people and their well-being at the centre of productive activity. Unlike the traditional system based on profit maximization, SSE is committed to equity, sustainability and cooperation as fundamental pillars for economic and social development.

2. Definition of SSE

SSE encompasses a wide range of economic entities and practices whose purpose is to respond to collective needs and promote the general interest. It is governed by values such as solidarity, social justice and democratic participation, prioritizing the social and environmental impact over individual profit.

3. History and Evolution

Origins of Cooperativism

- **XIX century:** The Industrial Revolution generated deep labor and social inequalities, which prompted the creation of the first cooperatives as a response to these problems.
- **1844:** The Rochdale Pioneers' cooperative was founded in England, considered to be the first modern model of cooperativism based on principles of equity and self-management.
- **XX century:** The expansion of cooperativism and the evolution of the social economy gave rise to new forms of solidarity organization in different sectors and countries, consolidating an alternative economic ecosystem.

4. Fundamental Principles of the SSE

1. **Democracy and participation:** Decision-making is done collectively, promoting inclusion of all members.
2. **Equity and social justice:** A fair distribution of resources and benefits is encouraged, with the well-being of the community as a priority.
3. **Environmental sustainability:** Responsible production practices are promoted with the environment and efficient use of natural resources.
4. **Cooperation and solidarity:** Support and collaboration networks are being built between entities to strengthen the socio-economic fabric.
5. **Local and community development:** It is committed to strengthening the economy from a territorial perspective, promoting employment and social cohesion.

5. Differences Between SSE and Conventional Economics

| Appearance | Conventional Economy | Social and Solidarity Economy |
Maximization of economic benefit | Social and environmental welfare generation |

Property | Private or corporate | Collective and democratic | **Management** | Hierarchical | Participatory | **Distribution** | Profit for shareholders | Fair distribution and reinvestment in the community | This table reflects how the SSE puts emphasis on people and their well-being, in contrast to the traditional economic model where economic benefit is the central focus.

6. Impact of SSE on Local Development

- **Generation of stable and quality employment:** The SSE promotes decent working conditions and employment opportunities in sustainable sectors.
- **Strengthening the community fabric:** Social cohesion is promoted through citizen participation and democratic governance.
- **Promotion of environmental sustainability:** It is committed to responsible production models with the environment and circular economy.
- **Boosting economic resilience:** More stable and self-sufficient economies are being built locally.

7. Examples and Case studies

Rochdale Pioneers (England, 1844)

- First modern cooperative based on democratic principles and equitable participation.
- His model remains a reference for current cooperativism.

REAS Red de Redes (Spain)

- Grouping of entities that promote SSE at the local level, encouraging cooperation and social innovation.
- Promotes solidarity economy projects in different municipalities.

Som Energia (Spain)

- Renewable energy cooperative run by its own partners.
- Promotes clean and sustainable energy production and consumption.

8. Role of local authorities in SSE

Public entities play a key role in strengthening the SSE through:

- **Development of public policies and regulations** to promote their development.
- **Incorporation of social and environmental clauses in public procurement** to favour SSE enterprises and cooperatives.
- **Financial and institutional support** for social economy projects through grants, training and access to resources.
- **Promoting awareness and dissemination** of SSE models as a viable and sustainable alternative.

9. Resources and Bibliography

- Links to SSE reference documents.

- Contact with SSE networks and platforms at national and international level.
- Complementary materials to deepen experiences and success stories.

● Workshop on the Identification of Opportunities in SSE

1. Introduction

This workshop aims to provide practical tools for participants to identify development opportunities within the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in their municipalities. Through participatory dynamics, the local environment will be analysed, needs identified and innovative solutions explored from an SSE perspective.

2. Workshop Objectives

- Understanding the role of SSE as a driver of local development.
- Analyse the socio-economic context and identify unmet needs.
- Identify key actors and resources available to launch SSE initiatives.

3. Methodology

The workshop is structured in three phases which will enable participants to analyse their environment, identify opportunities and design concrete strategies.

Phase 1: Local Context Analysis (30 minutes)

1. Map of the territory:

- Identification of existing resources in the community.
- Social, economic and environmental needs mapping.
- Recognition of key actors (institutions, cooperatives, associations, social enterprises).

2. SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats):

- Application of the SWOT matrix to assess SSE in the municipality.

Phase 2: Opportunity Identification (30 minutes)

1. Idea generation:

- Identification of problems that could be solved through SSE.
- Examples of successful projects implemented in other municipalities.

2. Prioritisation of opportunities:

- Assessment of the feasibility of ideas in terms of resources, impact and sustainability.
- Selection of two or three initiatives with the greatest potential.

Phase 3: Design of a Preliminary Proposal (30 minutes)

1. Definition of objectives:

- Establish the impact that the initiative seeks to achieve.

2. Development of a proposal for action:

- Identification of the actors involved.
- Identification of resources required.

- Strategies for project implementation.

3. Presentation and feedback:

- Each group presents its proposal and receives comments to strengthen it.

4. Materials Needed

- Stationery and markers.
- Templates for SWOT analysis.
- Guide with examples of SSE projects in different territories.

• Simulation of Application of Social Balance Tools

1. Introduction

Social balance is a fundamental tool in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), since it allows us to measure the social, economic and environmental impact of an entity. Through this simulation, participants will be able to apply evaluation tools in local organizations, facilitating their implementation in municipal management and promoting good practices in transparency and sustainability.

2. Workshop Objectives

- Understanding the relevance of social balance within the SSE.
- Applying assessment tools in different case studies.
- Analyse the results obtained and design improvement strategies.

3. Methodology

The workshop is divided into three phases combining theory and practice, enabling participants to become familiar with social balance and apply it in concrete situations.

Phase 1: Introduction to Social Balance (30 minutes)

1. Concept and purpose:

- Definition of social balance and its usefulness in the SSE.
- Benefits of its application in municipal entities and sector organizations.

2. Key indicators:

- Democratic governance and participation.
- Social and environmental impact.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Working conditions and gender equity.

Phase 2: Assessment Simulation (40 minutes)

1. Selection of simulated cases:

- Cooperative for responsible consumption.
- Social integration enterprise.
- Fair Trade association.

2. Application of evaluation tools:

- Use of questionnaires and matrices for indicator assessment.
- Identification of strengths and areas for improvement in each entity analysed.

Phase 3: Analysis and Conclusions (20 minutes)

1. Interpretation of the results:

- Comparison of indicators between the organizations evaluated.
- Identification of good practices and areas for improvement.

2. Proposals for action:

- Recommendations to strengthen the social balance in SSE organizations.
- Reflection on the importance of these tools in public management and municipal decision-making.

4. Materials Needed

- Guide with key social balance indicators.
- Evaluation and analysis templates.
- Case studies with detailed application information.

- **Resources on Financing and Institutional Support for SSE**

1. Introduction

In order for the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) to be consolidated and expanded, it is essential to have adequate sources of financing and the support of public and private institutions. This document lists various financing options, support programs and strategies that can help strengthen and make this economic model sustainable.

2. Sources of Financing for SSE

2.1. Ethical and Cooperative Banking

The financial sector also offers alternatives aligned with SSE values, allowing access to resources without relying on traditional banking. Some of the main options are:

- **Fiare Banca Ética:** Entity that finances projects with a positive impact on society and the environment.
- **Coop57:** Solidarity financial services network providing support to cooperatives and SSE entities.
- **Triodos Bank:** Specialized in financing initiatives in sectors such as education, environment and social development.

2.2. Social Investment Funds

Funds are designed to support SSE ventures, facilitating their access to capital and mentoring:

- **European Social Fund (ESF+):** Supports employment and social inclusion initiatives.
- **Impact Hub Scaling Program:** Program that combines funding and mentoring for social entrepreneurship projects.
- **Seed Capital Bizkaia:** Investment fund for projects with both social and economic impact.

2.3. Crowdfunding and Microcredit

Crowdfunding and micro-credit are an effective alternative for projects in their early stages or with difficulties of access to traditional credit:

- **Goteo.org:** Crowdfunding platform focused on initiatives with social and cultural impact.

- **MicroBank (CaixaBank):** Financing of SSE projects and social entrepreneurship.
- **Kiva.org:** Global network providing micro-credit to social initiatives.

3. Institutional Support Programmes

3.1. European Programmes

The European Union has different programmes that support SSE through grants and funding:

- **EaSI (Employment and Social Innovation):** Initiative providing financial support to SSE entities.
- **Next Generation EU:** Fund for economic recovery with special focus on sustainability and SSE.
- **INTERREG programme:** Promotes cooperation between European regions in the field of SSE.

3.2. Support in Spain

At national and autonomous level, there are several initiatives that promote the development of SSE:

- **REAS Red de Redes:** Provides advice and support to SSE entities in Spain.
- **Ministry of Labour and Social Economy:** Design specific programmes to promote social entrepreneurship and SSE.
- **Municipalities and autonomous governments:** Develop grants and support programmes adapted to local realities.

4. Strategies for Access to Finance

To maximize funding opportunities, it is advisable to adopt several strategies:

1. **Diversification of sources:** Combining ethical banking, crowdfunding, grants and other funding channels.
2. **Partnership with public institutions:** Access to support programmes offered by municipalities and state agencies.
3. **Use of impact indicators:** Produce robust reports that demonstrate the social and environmental impact of projects, facilitating access to funds.
4. **Participation in networks and platforms:** Take advantage of collaborative spaces and collective funding that allow sharing of knowledge and resources.

- **Slide Presentation: Introduction to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)**

Slide 1: Cover

Título: Introduction to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

Subtítulo: Training for Local Authorities

Representative image or logo

Slide 2: Session Objectives

- Understand what SSE is and its impact on local development.
- Identify the values and principles on which it is based.
- Reflect on their role in transforming the territory.

Slide 3: Definition of SSE

- Economic model based on cooperation, equity and solidarity.
- Prioritizes people's well-being and social impact over economic benefit.
- Promotes sustainability and democratic management of resources.

Slide 4: History and Evolution of the SSE

Origins in the 19th century

- Cooperativism emerges as a response to the labour problems of the Industrial Revolution.
- 1844: The Rochdale Cooperative is founded, pioneering the principles of cooperativism.
- During the 20th century, the SSE expanded and diversified into different production sectors.

Slide 5: Fundamental Principles of SSE

- **Democracy and participation:** Decisions are taken collectively.
- **Equity and social justice:** Seeks to reduce inequalities and improve living conditions.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Promotes environmentally responsible production models.

- **Cooperation and solidarity:** Encourages networking and collaboration between entities.
- **Local Development:** Aims to strengthen the economy from a territorial perspective.

Slide 6: Differences from Conventional Economics

| Appearance | Conventional Economy | Social and Solidarity Economy | Objective | Maximising the economic benefit | Generate social and environmental well-being | **Property** | Private / Corporate | Collective / Democratic | **Management** | Hierarchical | Participative | **Distribution** | Profit for shareholders | Equitable distribution among members | This comparison highlights how the SSE puts people and social impact at the centre of its economic activity.

Slide 7: Impact of SSE on Local Development

- Creates stable and decent employment.
- Strengthens the community fabric and citizen participation.
- Promotes sustainable and responsible production models.
- Promotes networks of cooperation between local authorities.

Slide 8: Examples and Case Studies

- **The Rochdale Pioneers (1844):** First modern cooperative, laying the foundations of present-day cooperativism.
- **REAS Red de Redes (Spain):** Promotes the development of SSE at municipal level through networking.
- **Som Energia (Spain):** Renewable energy cooperative that has successfully transformed the energy market from a solidarity and sustainable perspective.

Slide 9: Role of Local Authorities in SSE

- Creation of regulations to promote SSE in the territory.
- Support for local solidarity economy networks and cooperatives.
- Facilitate access to funding and collaborative work spaces.
- Include social and environmental criteria in public procurement.

Slide 10: Final Reflection and Debate

- How can SSE contribute to the development of our community?
- What measures can local governments take to strengthen the SSE?
- Are there similar experiences in our region?

Slide 11: Resources and Bibliography

- SSE reference and policy documents.
- Links to networks and platforms that promote SSE.
- Case studies for specific examples.

● Templates for Strategic Planning in the SSE

1. Introduction

Strategic planning is a key element for the success and sustainability of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) initiatives. Having a clear structure facilitates decision-making, resource optimization and the generation of positive impacts in the territory. These templates provide a practical guide for designing effective action plans, tailored to the needs of municipalities and organizations seeking to advance SSE.

2. Plantilla 1: Diagnóstico y Análisis de Situación

Objective

Understanding the current context and challenges facing SSE in the territory, identifying development opportunities and areas for improvement.

Structure

1. General Information

- Name of initiative or entity.
- Location and scope.
- Responsible for the diagnosis.

2. SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats)

- Identification of internal (strengths and weaknesses) and external (opportunities and threats) factors influencing the SSE.

3. Key Actors Map

- List of SSE cooperatives, associations and networks in the territory.
- Relationship with public administration and other strategic sectors.

3. Template 2: Design of Objectives and Strategies

Objective

Define concrete objectives and effective strategies for the implementation and consolidation of SSE in the territory.

Structure

1. Definition of Objectives

- What are the short, medium and long term objectives?
- Setting measurable and realistic goals.

2. Main Strategies

- Promotion of employment and social inclusion.
- Access to finance and economic sustainability.
- Incorporation of SSE criteria in public procurement.

3. Evaluation Indicators

- Number of people directly and indirectly benefited.
- Degree of community involvement in the development of initiatives.
- Social and environmental impact measured over time.

4. Template 3: Municipal Action Plan

Objective

Develop a detailed roadmap for the implementation and strengthening of SSE at the municipal level.

Structure

1. Priority Actions

- Creation of support networks among SSE entities.
- Development of public policies to promote SSE.
- Promotion of responsible and sustainable consumption in the community.

2. Implementation Schedule

- Definition of tasks and deadlines in the short, medium and long term.
- Allocation of responsibilities and resources required.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

- Identification of key impact indicators.
- Continuous adjustments and improvements based on results obtained.

- **Map of Key Actors in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)**

1. Introduction

The mapping of key actors is an essential tool for strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) at the municipal level. It enables the identification, connection and coordination of the different actors that form part of this ecosystem, facilitating the creation of synergies and optimising the local impact of initiatives. This guide provides a practical outline for classifying SSE actors and promoting their integration into territorial development strategies.

2. Identification of Key Actors

The actors that make up the SSE can be grouped into different categories according to their role in the local socio-economic fabric.

2.1. SSE Cooperatives and Enterprises

These organizations represent the productive engine of SSE and operate under principles of participation and equity:

- **Cooperatives of associated workers:** Companies run democratically by their own employees.
- **Insertion companies:** Productive projects that facilitate the integration into working life of groups at risk of exclusion.
- **Labor Societies:** Companies where employees are majority owners and participate in decision-making.
- **Cooperatives for responsible consumption:** Organizations that promote access to sustainable and ethical goods and services.

2.2. Public Institutions and Administrations

The public sector plays a key role in promoting and consolidating SSE through regulatory frameworks and financial support:

- **Municipalities and local governments:** Responsible for developing public policies to promote SSE.
- **Councils and agencies for economic and social development:** Promote sector-specific incentives and regulations.
- **Support programmes and public funding:** Funds and resources to strengthen SSE initiatives.

2.3. SSE Networks and Partnerships

Collaborative networks and platforms are key to connecting and strengthening SSE entities:

- **Territorial SSE networks** (Example: REAS Red de Redes in Spain): Groups of entities working together to strengthen the solidarity economy.
- **Cooperative federations**: Organizations representing and supporting cooperatives in different sectors.
- **Social entrepreneurship platforms**: Spaces that facilitate the incubation and acceleration of SSE projects.

2.4. Ethical and Alternative Financial Institutions

Access to finance is crucial for the growth of SSE, and ethical financial institutions play a key role in this:

- **Ethical bank** (Example: Fiare, Coop57): Banks and credit unions that finance projects with positive social and environmental impact.
- **Social investment funds**: Resources to finance enterprises and projects with SSE values.
- **Microcredit programmes**: Initiatives that enable small social entrepreneurs to access capital without relying on traditional banking.

2.5. Academic Institutions and Research Centres

Education and research are key to the development and dissemination of SSE:

- **Universities and specialized training centres**: Promote studies and academic programmes on solidarity economy.
- **Observatories of solidarity economy**: Analyse the impact of SSE and promote policies for improvement.
- **Social innovation initiatives**: Academic and business projects promoting new SSE-based solutions.

2.6. Citizenship and Consumers

Citizen engagement is essential for strengthening the SSE:

- **Responsible consumption groups**: Initiatives that promote access to sustainable and ethical products.
- **Consumer organisations**: Groups that promote conscious consumption and fair trade.

- **Social movements for a just economy:** Networks that drive changes in consumer habits and economic policies.

3. Strategies for Coordination and Synergy between Actors

To maximise the impact of SSE at local level, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between different actors. Some key strategies include:

1. **Establishment of multisectoral working groups**, bringing together representatives from the SSE, public administrations and other strategic actors.
2. **Fostering partnerships between cooperatives and local governments**, facilitating access to resources and promoting supportive policies.
3. **Organization of networking events and SSE fairs**, which allow initiatives to be visible and generate opportunities for collaboration.
4. **Implementation of training and awareness-raising programmes**, aimed at both SSE actors and the general public.
5. **Use of digital platforms for collaboration between actors**, promoting information exchange and building support networks.

4. Example of Map of Actors in a Municipality

Category	Example of Actor	Main Role
Work Cooperative	Local Services Cooperative	Community employment generation
Public Administration	Department of Economic Development	Policy and financial support
SSE Network	Network of Local Cooperatives	Networking and strengthening
Ethical bank	Fiare Banca Ética	Alternative funding
University	Faculty of Solidarity Economy	Research and training
Consumers	Responsible Consumption Group	Demand for sustainable products

• Current Legislation and Normative Guides on SSE

1. Introduction

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has a solid regulatory framework in both Spain and Europe, aimed at promoting its development and consolidation. This document contains the main laws and guidelines governing SSE, as well as normative guides to facilitate its implementation at the municipal level.

2. Legislation in Spain and France

2.1. Social Economy Law 5/2011 (Spain)

Law 5/2011 establishes the recognition of the SSE as a differentiated economic sector, based on cooperation, equity and democratic management. Its main features include:

- Regulation of the operation of entities such as cooperatives, labour societies, mutual funds, foundations and associations of general interest.
- Prioritising collective welfare over economic profitability.
- Defining the responsibility of Public Administrations in promoting SSE through specific incentives and policies.

2.2. SSE law in France (2014)

France has developed a comprehensive regulatory framework for the SSE, consolidating its recognition and strengthening its impact on the national economy. Among its most important measures are:

- Legal recognition of cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and social enterprises as essential actors in the economic model.
- Implementation of fiscal and financial incentives to strengthen the SSE.
- Creation of reserves in public procurement to favour SSE entities.
- Obligation for large companies to report their social and economic impact.
- Development of solidarity investment funds to support SSE projects.

2.3. Autonomous Community Regulation in Spain

The autonomous communities have supplemented Law 5/2011 with specific regulations:

- **Cataluña:** It has its own Law on Cooperatives and regulations that favour the inclusion of social clauses in public procurement.
- **Andalucía:** Has promoted the Law for the Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship, focused on strengthening SSE initiatives.
- **País Vasco:** Law 4/2016 on the Social Economy establishes a regulatory framework that strengthens the role of the SSE in the economic and social development of the territory.

2.4. Status of Self-Employed and its Relationship with the SSE

The Statute of Self-Employed incorporates provisions relevant to the SSE sector, especially with regard to associated work cooperatives. Key points include:

- Regulation of the functioning and rights of workers in cooperatives.
- Promotion of self-management and democratic decision-making within SSE entities.

3. European Union Policies and Strategies

3.1. Action Plan for SSE in Europe (2021-2027)

This plan sets out strategic lines for consolidating the SSE in the EU member countries, with emphasis on:

- Promoting sustainable business models.
- Access to funding for SSE projects.
- Networking and platforms to strengthen collaboration between SSE entities in different countries.

3.2. Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU

With the aim of promoting socially responsible public procurement, this directive:

- Introduces criteria for States to prioritize companies with positive social and environmental impact in bidding processes.
- Allows the reservation of contracts for SSE entities, favoring their access to the public market.
- Promotes the inclusion of environmental and social clauses in procurement processes.

3.3. European SSE Support Funds

The European Union has allocated a number of funds to enhance SSE, including:

- **European Social Fund (ESF+)**: Aimed at financing employment and social inclusion initiatives within the SSE.
- **EaSI Programme (Employment and Social Innovation)**: Financially supports social entrepreneurship and SSE through training and financial aid.
- **Next Generation EU**: Fund for economic recovery, with a focus on SSE and sustainability projects.

4. Normative Guidelines for the Implementation of SSE in Municipalities

4.1. Guide to Socially Responsible Procurement

Developed by the Network of Municipalities for SSE, this guide provides tools to:

- Incorporate social criteria into public procurement processes.
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the social impact of awards.
- Present success stories on the implementation of social clauses in different cities in Spain.

4.2. Manual of Local Public Policies for the Promotion of SSE

This document, published by **REAS Red de Redes**, brings together effective strategies to boost SSE at the local level. Its main contributions include:

- Methods for the creation of social markets and solidarity-based economic circuits.
- Models of participatory governance adapted to municipal realities.
- Successful public policies implemented in different regions.

4.3. Good Practice in SSE Regulation

The compilation of good practices in SSE regulation provides examples of success in Spain and Europe, with recommendations for adapting local regulations to the needs of this sector.

- **Guide of Tools for Municipalities in the Implementation of the SSE**

1. Introduction

Local authorities play a key role in promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Through public policies and specific strategies, they can facilitate the consolidation of this economic model, contributing to sustainable development and social cohesion. This guide provides practical tools to strengthen SSE at the municipal level and maximize its impact on the community.

2. Identification and Diagnostic Tools

2.1. Mapping of Key Actors

To design effective policies in support of SSE, it is essential to know which entities are part of the local ecosystem. Key strategies for this process include:

- **Identification of cooperatives, associations, insertion enterprises and SSE networks** within the municipality.
- **Development of an accessible database**, facilitating coordination and networking between different actors.
- **Use of participatory methodologies** to validate and update information, involving the actors themselves in the construction of the SSE map.

2.2. Analysis of Local Needs

- **Surveys and interviews** with local citizens and organizations to identify areas where SSE can offer viable solutions.
- **Identification of strategic economic sectors** where SSE has growth potential.
- **Participatory workshops** to define intervention priorities and align municipal efforts with community needs.

3. Herramientas para la Implementación de Políticas Públicas

3.1. Support for the Creation and Strengthening of SSE Enterprises

The success of SSE at the municipal level depends to a large extent on institutional support and the creation of enabling environments. Some key measures include:

- **Technical and financial support programmes**, providing advice and facilitating access to resources.

- **Training in business management and social economy**, aimed at entrepreneurs and SSE entities.
- **Preferential access to municipal spaces**, allowing the use of public premises for SSE project development.

3.2. Public Procurement with Social and Environmental Criteria

Municipalities can encourage SSE through responsible public procurement. Key tools include:

- **Inclusion of social clauses in tenders**, ensuring that the companies awarded generate positive impact.
- **Promotion of the recruitment of cooperatives and integration enterprises**, facilitating their access to award procedures.
- **Creating incentives for suppliers committed to SSE principles**, promoting sustainable and supportive business models.

4. Evaluation and Monitoring Tools

4.1. Indicators of Impact

In order to assess the success of municipal SSE initiatives, it is essential to define monitoring indicators such as:

- **Number of jobs created** in SSE enterprises.
- **Social and environmental impact** of the projects promoted.
- **Degree of citizen participation** in the governance of initiatives.

4.2. Social Balance-sheet Audits

The social balance allows to measure the impact of SSE and ensure its alignment with principles of equity and sustainability. Its implementation in municipalities may include:

- **Periodic assessments of the social and environmental impact** of SSE entities.
- **Analysis of transparency and democratic management**, ensuring that entities act in accordance with SSE principles.
- **Review of annual reports and achievement of targets**, allowing for the continuous improvement of municipal strategies.

5. Success Stories in Municipalities

Barcelona: Integration of Social Clauses in Public Procurement

Since 2016, Barcelona has implemented a responsible public procurement strategy, reserving contracts for SSE companies and promoting the inclusion of social and environmental criteria in bidding processes.

Madrid: Creation of Municipal Spaces for SSE Projects

The City of Madrid has facilitated access to public spaces for SSE entities, allowing the consolidation of social entrepreneurship initiatives and the dynamization of the local economy.

Paris: Promotion of Circular Economy and SSE Networks

The city of Paris has developed SSE support programmes as part of its circular economy strategy, promoting partnerships between local cooperatives, institutions and businesses to drive sustainable production and consumption patterns.

● Documented Case Studies on SSE

1. Introduction

The analysis of successful experiences in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) allows a better understanding of the strategies and models that have achieved a positive impact in different sectors and territories. These cases serve as a reference for the implementation of similar initiatives in other contexts, facilitating their adaptation to local needs and opportunities.

2. Case 1: Som Energia (Spain) - Renewable Energy Cooperative

Context

Som Energia is a Spanish cooperative founded in 2010 with the aim of transforming the energy market through a model based on sustainability and democratic participation. The cooperative has become a benchmark in the renewable energy sector, promoting more responsible and accessible consumption.

Implemented Measures

- **Collective financing:** Contributions from partners to the development of energy projects.
- **Own generation of energy:** Development of renewable facilities to ensure sustainable supply.
- **Promotion of responsible consumption:** Awareness of the importance of clean and affordable energy.

Resultados

- More than 80,000 partners in Spain.
- Commercialization of 100% renewable energy.
- Expansion of the model to other European countries.

3. Case 2: La Louve (Francia) - Cooperative Supermarket

Context

La Louve is a cooperative supermarket located in Paris that allows its members to be both customers and volunteer workers. This model encourages participatory management and strengthens the connection between producers and consumers.

Implemented Measures

- **Active participation of partners:** Each member contributes to the management and operation of the supermarket.

- **Sale of local and sustainable products:** Priority given to local and fair trade products.
- **Reduction of intermediaries:** Greater accessibility to quality products at lower prices.

Results

- More than 7,000 active members.
- Expansion of the model to other cities in France and Europe.
- Contribution to the strengthening of fair trade and local economy.

4. Case 3: Airbnb (Italy) - Sustainable Tourism Platform

Context

Airbnb emerges as an ethical alternative to mass tourism rental platforms, promoting a more fair and sustainable model. Its proposal seeks to balance tourism with the well-being of local communities.

Implemented Measures

- **Redistribution of profits:** Part of the income generated is reinvested in social and community projects.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Sustainability and equity management model.
- **Promotion of sustainable tourism:** Promotion of accommodation that respects the environment and host communities.

Results

- Expansion to several European cities.
- Investment in community and social projects.
- Replicable model that contributes to more equitable and responsible tourism.

- **Public Procurement Case Studies in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)**

1. Introduction

Strategic public procurement has become a key tool for strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Through the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in procurement processes, public administrations can ensure that resources are directed to projects with a positive impact on the community. This document lists several successful cases in the implementation of public procurement models aligned with SSE principles in different territories.

2. Case 1: Strategic Public Procurement in Madrid (Spain)

Context

Madrid has opted for a public procurement model that prioritizes SSE as a mechanism to promote social inclusion and sustainability. By reserving public contracts for cooperatives and integration enterprises, resources have been channelled to entities that generate inclusive employment and strengthen the local economy.

Implemented Measures

- Reserve public contracts for cooperatives and integration firms.
- Prioritization of projects that promote healthy eating, work inclusion of vulnerable groups and environmental sustainability.
- Evaluation of the social and economic impact of contracting entities.

Results

Creation and consolidation of self-managed projects.

- Strengthening the economic and social fabric at municipal level.
- Increased access of SSE entities to public procurement, fostering their growth and stability.

3. Case 2: Responsible Public Procurement in Barcelona (Spain)

Context

Since 2016, Barcelona has implemented a responsible public procurement strategy, integrating social and environmental criteria into municipal tendering processes. This model has strengthened the SSE ecosystem and ensured that public funds contribute to employment generation and social cohesion.

Implemented Measures

- Inclusion of social clauses in the contract documents.
- Market reserves for cooperatives and integration enterprises.

- Evaluation of the social impact of suppliers before contracts are awarded.

Results

- More than 30% of municipal contracts include social clauses.
- Employment growth in cooperatives for integration.
- Greater access of SSE entities to public procurement, strengthening the local productive fabric.

4. Case 3: Socially Responsible Recruitment in Paris (France)

Context

Since 2018, Paris has developed a public procurement model aligned with its circular economy and SSE strategy. Its approach seeks not only to strengthen the social and solidarity sector, but also to reduce the environmental impact of public procurement.

Implemented Measures

- Prioritization of suppliers that demonstrate commitment to SSE.
- Use of sustainability indicators in the evaluation of tenders.
- Networking of SSE providers in the metropolitan region.

Results

- Reduction of the environmental impact associated with public procurement.
- Greater inclusion of SSE companies in bidding processes.
- Creation of inclusive employment in strategic sectors of the local economy.

5. Case 4: Public Ethical Procurement Programme in País Vasco (Spain)

Context

In 2020, the Basque Government launched a pilot programme to integrate ethical criteria into public procurement, with the aim of promoting fair trade and strengthening SSE at regional level.

Implemented Measures

- Application of fair trade criteria in public procurement.
- Promotion of partnerships between SSE entities and government agencies.
- Creation of a SSE supplier catalogue to facilitate their access to public procurement.

Results

- Increase in the number of contracts awarded to SSE companies.
- Strengthening the social economy network in the region.

- Increased awareness in public administrations of the importance of ethical recruitment.