

GUIDE



**BILBAO**2018

GLOBAL SOCIAL  
ECONOMY FORUM

Social Economy and Cities

**Values and  
competitiveness for  
an inclusive and  
sustainable local  
development**

**CALL FOR  
PROPOSALS**



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[www.gsef2018.org](http://www.gsef2018.org)



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## **THE GSEF2018 IN BRIEF**

The Global Social Economy Forum-GSEF2018 represents the fourth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), a major international conference which was initiated in the City of Seoul in 2013, in collaboration with its local social economy partners. The 2014 edition, held once again in the South Korean capital, led to the GSEF being established as a permanent international association, bringing together local governments and civil society players who recognize the social economy (SE) as a key factor for local economic development. In 2016, the City of Montreal and the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale co-organized the forum in Montreal, enhancing collaboration between local governments and social economy actors for the development of cities.

The GSEF 2018 will be held in Bilbao, in the Basque Country, in the first week of October at an event organized by Bilbao City Council. The central theme is the combination of values and competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable local development. More specifically, the GSEF2018 will present initiatives that have created jobs, improved the quality of life, strengthened social cohesion and inclusion, contributing to the competitiveness of cities and regions, taking into account the key factor of sustainability, ultimately fostering inclusive local development and sustainable cities.

At GSEF 2018, participants will share their views and experiences on integrating economic efficiency, social inclusion, sustainable development and greater participation in economic performance and urban development.

More than 1,500 participants from around the world are expected to attend this event, mainly from:

- Local governments (elected representatives and public officials)
- Social economy organizations

Similarly, the participation of organizations from the private sector and civil society interested in collaborative work with governments and the SE is also expected.

Regional and local governments, policy makers, SE organizations, such as cooperatives, community firms, social firms, credit and mutual cooperatives, social finance and non-profit institutions are all welcome to attend GSEF 2018.



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## **OBJECTIVES OF THE GSEF2018**

- Share best practices from around the planet of public policy co-constructed for the development of the SE in urban areas
- Integrate the key elements of competitiveness taking into account the core values of the social economy
- Enable international actions to foster the development of the SE
- Identify opportunities and issues pertaining to collaboration between local governments and SE actors
- Promote awareness of the SE and recognition of its role in local development, especially among public stakeholders, the general public, and the private sector
- Reinforce the GSEF and its capacity to carry out its mission

The Forum is meant to be a dynamic and participatory gathering, constructed in collaboration with local and international partners.

## **THEMATIC AREAS**

The Forum's central theme is the Social Economy and Cities: Values and competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable local development.

The theme revolves around three central ideas (values, competitiveness and inclusive and sustainable development), which are directly related to one of the main current debates at European and global level considering the social economy, in its various expressions, as a real and viable option to advance and grow socially and economically in a different way.

The values are the pillars of a new growth model and the roots that feed the social economy initiatives: self-management, mutual support, autonomy, equity, democracy, economic solidarity and commitment to society, the environment and sustainability.

On the other hand, it aims to demonstrate that competitiveness is not alien to the Social Economy, but rather, it accepts that it is the parameter used to measure part of its value. Combining competitiveness with values or, in other words, proposing an economic model where factors linked to people and their work as opposed to capital and its performance are the main reference, is the foundation of including this strong idea. The Social Economy is demonstrating its ability to enable local development capable of addressing the challenges linked to a sustainable growth model for economic activities, while meeting the requirements linked to a multicultural, ageing society with increasingly diverse ways.

Along these lines, the main thematic lines of the GSEF 2018 are:



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Theme	Sub-Theme
<b>Co-creation of public policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public-Private collaboration strategies</li><li>• Public purchase and social clauses</li><li>• Social Economy in the public policies</li><li>• Social Economy in Community Policy</li><li>• Social Economy in the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</li><li>• Behavior of the social economy in critical contexts: economic crisis, institutional crises</li></ul>
<b>Contribution of the SE to regional transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation</li><li>• Socially Responsible Regions</li><li>• Ecosystems of social innovation</li><li>• Social Economy and citizenship in cooperation: transformation binomial</li><li>• Social Economy and its contribution to post-conflict processes</li><li>• The Basque Local Development System</li><li>• MONDRAGON story</li></ul>
<b>Challenges to the growth of SE entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Scope in the entities of Social Economy: financing instruments, visibility and regulatory framework</li><li>• Experiences of alliances between entities of Social Economy</li><li>• Fundraising and other tools for the creation and sustainability of Social Economy initiatives</li><li>• Democratization of the governance models of SE entities</li><li>• Monetization of the social value of organizations. A stakeholder-based approach</li></ul>
<b>The future of work and employment: the role of SE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The value of work in society</li><li>• Productive and reproductive work binomial</li><li>• Education and youth, ensuring the future of the Social Economy</li><li>• Irruption of technology and disappearance of jobs</li><li>• Social &amp; labour inclusion</li><li>• Business transformation through social economy</li></ul>

For a detailed description of the themes and sub-themes, please visit our website <https://gsef2018.org/>



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## **PRESENTING AN INITIATIVE AT THE GSEF 2018**

The academic committee of the Forum has linked different sub-themes to the main topics, aware that the elements that determine the development of cities are inter-related and that the majority of initiatives to be presented in the GSEF 2018 will include more than one of these questions. Consequently, the GSEF 2018 proposes an integrated view of the Social Economy and the inclusive and sustainable development of cities.

### INITIATIVE SELECTION CRITERIA

With the aim of simultaneously presenting the institutional/governmental perspective and the players in the Social Economy, the academic committee will prioritise existing initiatives that include processes of cooperation among public agents and those of the Social Economy. Preference will also be given to those proposals presented jointly by a public institution or governmental agency and a Social Economy entity.

Additionally, the academic committee will take into consideration the diversity of people who act as presenters of initiatives (gender, geographic area, type of organisation, activity sector) at the time of selection.

## **HOW TO PRESENT AN INITIATIVE AT THE GSEF 2018**

People interested in presenting an initiative at the GSEF 2018 must fill in the downloadable form providing a description of the proposed initiative (maximum 1000 words).

### **COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

An initiative is an on-going project which through Social Economy contributes to the development of cities. This project may come from a Social Economy organisation, a local government organisation or a cooperation between different agents.

- A workshop will generally group three-five initiatives, from different countries or activity sectors but with one common theme.
- Expected duration of the workshops: one and a half hours (for the total initiatives presented in each workshop).
- **Deadline for sending initiatives: Wednesday 28 February 2018** (midnight, Central European Time, UTC/GMT +01:00 (CET)).
- Languages: It is possible to present the initiatives in French, English, Spanish or Basque. The GSEF 2018 is a quadrilingual event.
- **IMPORTANT:** Only proposals presented via the official website of the event [www.gsef2018.org](http://www.gsef2018.org) will be considered.



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- For reasons of capacity and equilibrium of the expected topics, the academic secretariat reserves the right to select initiatives that are finally presented in the form of workshop or poster.
- The resolution on initiatives presented, selected and rejected will be communicated by email. It is expected that notification of said resolution will be made within two months following the presentation deadline for this convocation.
- In the event of being selected, representatives of the entities presenting initiatives will have free access to the three days of the Forum.
- Likewise, financial assistance has been set up for those representatives who do not have the necessary resources to participate in the event. Those wishing to apply for financial assistance may do so by contacting the organisation at: [academic@gsef2018.org](mailto:academic@gsef2018.org) outlining the reasons for making this request.
- Should you have technical difficulties with the online form, send a message to [info@gsef2018.org](mailto:info@gsef2018.org)
- For any other doubts or queries related to the presentation of initiatives, do not hesitate to write to us at [academic@gsef2018.org](mailto:academic@gsef2018.org)

**See you in Bilbao!**