







# Webinars heading to



Encuentro Digital:

Jóvenes y Economía Social

para el alcance de los ODS

# Digital Meeting: Youth and Social Economy to reach the SDGs

**Conceptual Note** 

To be a young person in Latin America and the Caribbean is to be part of the 140 million adolescents and young people that can transform the present and future of the region. With the aspirations ahead and major challenges in their present, young people are welfare strategic actors.

The Social Economy promotes that, in difficult times, young people could be able to take care of themselves, help each other, and face contingency the best way possible; by doing communitarian actions that benefit them, that take care of their loved ones as well as the environment. The youth incorporation to this alternative economic model is under construction, therefore crucial to promote it: the youth is missing social economy, and the SSE is missing young people.

The youth and the SSE can contribute to achieving the most ambitious 2030 global agenda, despite emerging crisis such as COVID-19. At the Digital Meeting, the youth of the region will talk, reflect and lay the foundations to work as a network and make the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals, engines for resilience with values such as solidarity, equity, democracy, and mutual help.

### **Youth and SDGs**

The youths are recognized as agents of change, in charge of exploiting their own potential and ensure an appropriate world for the future generations, their link with achieving the 2030 Agenda is clear.

Young people are immersed, undoubtedly, in SDG 4: quality education which seeks to ensure access to inclusive and equitable education is essential for a successful transition towards the labour market and to achieve decent work, apart from being key for reaching most of the SDGs. They are immersed in the SDG 8 as well: decent work and economic growth, against the background that the youth is three times more likely to be unemployed than adults, with an overall youth unemployment rate of 13% in 2017; besides a lot of young people have a low paid, precarious and informal employment.

The youth from the Social and Solidarity Economy perspective can contribute to the SDGs such as putting an end to poverty, the fight against inequality and injustice, cope with climate change. Young people could be a positive force for the development when knowledge and the opportunities they need to prosper, are provided to them. In particular, young people must get hold of the knowledge and the necessary abilities to contribute in a fair, sustainable and equitable economy.

To promote youth participation in the construction of a transformative economy is fundamental.

## Social Economy and the possibility to end the crisis

The model of the SSE can help generate resilience in the communities by enabling the social inclusion, establishing more horizontal and close relationships, in the value chains as much as in the production chains, generating better conditions for the development of the people -through dignified jobs- and the communities by maintaining and distributing in them the resources generated by the productive activities.

During this crisis, the cooperatives of producers and consumers have been fundamental in many regions to maintain the goods supply chains and

essential services, based on its rooting on the territory and the communities. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has declared that in spite of having been affected by the pandemic of Covid-19, the cooperatives, just as other companies of the social and solidary economy of the world, have adapted their services and made the contact between the people who needed support and governments and social interlocutors at a local scale, much easier.

During the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, this resilience had already manifested, it is the case of the German financial system whose social banking, had practically no solvency problems, unlike the commercial banking, proving the value of the cooperative models over the competition models (around a fourth of the German population is part of a financial cooperative). Social banking tends to invest in the real economy, it does not speculate with the capital. It finances local projects related to sectors with sustainable proposals (renewable energies, ecologic agriculture, ecotourism, etc.). In the current context, the SSE presents solutions with social innovation and environmental conscience to the current system malfunctions.

### **Youth in the SSE**

Although the youth in the Latin American region is a transformative force of the socio-economic realities, its incorporation to the SSE is an important issue that deserves particular attention. For example, in Mexico an estimated 1.5 million of the 39.2 young people are members of the social banking; however, in the 2019 cooperative census of Mexico City, only 5% of the interviewees reported to be between 18 and 25 years old; whereas the 78% were adults between 36 and more than 54 years old.

There is one unfinished item of business in the youth incorporation to the social sector of the economy. An active strategy towards the benefit of the well-being is crucial, networking opens the possibility to a regional and intergenerational dialogue. The way we involve young people today will determine the perspectives for sustainable development and peace of the future.

## Youth, SSE and SDGs

By 2030, worldwide growth in the young population is estimated (7%); this window of opportunity to make them leading allies to reach the SDGs and for the change of the economic model for one of wellbeing, must include them. There is a strong conviction that pushing actions from the SSE's perspective, will allow having a better world.

Principles such as the pursuit of well-living and the common-well, the autonomy and independence of the political and religious field, the respect for cultural identity, gender equity, participative democratic mechanisms, the interest and commitment for the community; and the human being, his work, and cooperation mechanisms, all in the center of his actions. Covered by values with universal potential: mutual help, democracy, equity, honesty, equality, justice and shared responsibility.

Collective power is transformative, and if you add the youth factor, there will be hope for a sustainable world, of a truly social economy, that ensures the wellbeing and the development of all the members in the community where it develops. With an open government, young people can be agents of change for the SDGs.

## **Objetives**

- The interactive panel, called **World of the #SSEYouth**, seeks to bring information closer, experiences and practices on the Social Solidary Economy as a vehicle to achieve the SDGs, to young people, through a familiar language and an activity journey in the frame of August, the month of the youth, and the activities towards GSEF2021.
- The digital space for dialogue, called **Linking #SSEYouth**, provides a close tie environment between the youths of the Latin American region for the establishment of a Spanish speaker network that thinks, ponders, gets involved, and acts on the Social and Solidary Economy to achieve the SDGs.



## What will it contain?

It is a 2.5 hours Digital Meeting, divided in two big moments: an interactive panel and a digital space for dialogue.

#### When and where?

The Digital Meeting: Youth and Social Economy to reach the SDGs will be on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2020, at 5:00 PM, Mexico City time. To sign up visit: https://t.co/WvRd50m9mD?amp=1

It will be via zoom and will have a live broadcast on social networks with a potential reach of almost 100.000 followers: Facebook INAES\_Mx; Twitter @INAESMx.











Thursday August 27th

# Columna izquierda:

SSE cultural expression space.

Opening

SSE possibilities and the youth to reach the SDGs

The cooperativism world and its types:

- Services (and social banking)
- Intake
- Production

The SSE in everyday life

SSE cultural expression space.

Adjustment time

Dialogue space: the encouragement

Dialogue space: the dialogue Dialogue space: the statement

Adjustment time

Plenary session: conclusions towards the Virtual Forum and call out to join

the network

SSE cultural expression space

Columna derecha:

Hosts:

A young man of the Latin American region A young woman of the Latin American region

Political protocol Interactive panel. World of the #SSEYouth Dialogue space. Linking #SSEYouth SSE cultural space.