



Draft as of 1st Dec

THE EUROPE POLICY DIALOUGE 2017

SUMMARY

Date: 5th Dec (TBC)

Venue: Centre de convention, Archamps, France

Theme: Transformative Partnerships between Local Governments and SSE actors -

* EPD will be organised as a side event to [the 8th Mont Blanc Meetings](#) (6 ~ 8 Dec)

Format: Panel discussion (presentations followed by discussants' comments and open discussions)

Host: GSEF Secretariat (in partnership with ESSFI)

Language: English

Participants: max 30 policy makers, researchers, practitioners, elected officials and civil servants

* *by invitation only event, if you are interested in participating in this event please contact jd.jung@gsef-net.org*

BACKGROUND

Since 2014, the GSEF has hosted annually 'the Asia Policy Dialogue (APD)' which has served as a regional platform for promoting co-construction of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) public policies. For the first time in its editions, the fifth 2017 GSEF policy dialogue will shift its regional focus onto Europe, where the most innovative public policy experiments are underway to tackle pressing socioeconomic issues such as widening inequality, regional disparity, unemployment and migration. In the process, SSE public policies which encompass various initiatives such as community ownership, social finance, social enterprise, Fairtrade and cooperative have been increasingly playing a pivotal role in conceptualising alternative ways of dealing with the current challenges and localising Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the fifth edition of the GSEF Policy Dialogue, GSEF seeks to establish a platform for knowledge exchanges by drawing lessons from the unique experiences of European countries.

Through the collective efforts of identifying imminent policy challenges of Europe and its innovative solutions based on the SSE principles, Europe Policy Dialogue (EPD) will provide an ample opportunity for debates among policy makers, researchers and SSE stakeholders.

Ultimately The EPD aims to serve as a catalyst for encouraging cooperation among SSE stakeholders based in Europe and disseminating good practices to other continents. The outcome of the EPD will

be reflected in the agenda formulation of GSEF’s forthcoming forum; GSEF2018 ‘Values and competitiveness: an inclusive & sustainable development (tentative)’ which will be taking place in Bilbao, Spain from 1st to 3rd October 2018.

GOALS

- Mapping current public policy issues in Europe (e.g. EU funds, the commons, remunicipalisation, migration/refugees, localisation) and identifying the potential of the SSE in a collective manner.
- Defining a transformative partnership between local governments and SSE actors towards ‘the new efficiency (the central theme of the 8th Mont Blanc Meetings)’ in the context of Europe
- Providing networking opportunities for participating organisations
- Delivering outcomes of the EPD discussions for constructing the theme of GSEF2018 Bilbao

PROGRAMME (TBC)

Time	Contents	Note
14:30 ~ 15:00 (‘30)	Networking tea time & registration	
15:00 ~ 15:05 (‘05)	Welcome remark	GSEF chair SSE network representative
15:05 ~ 15:10 (‘05)		GSEF chair city representative
15:10 ~ 15:15 (‘05)	EPD Overview	GSEF Secretariat
15:15 ~ 15:25 (‘10)	Speech (comparative)	Asia - Case of Korea
15:25 ~ 15:35 (‘10)	Speech (overview)	REVES - European SSE overview
15:35 ~ 16:15 (‘40)	Panel (session I)	By municipal representatives
16:15 ~ 16:25 (‘10)	Speech (comparative)	Africa – Case of Kampala
16:25 ~ 16:45 (‘20)	Q&A / Break	
16:45 ~ 17:35 (‘50)	Interactive dialogue (session II)	By SSE network representatives
17:35 ~ 17:55 (‘20)	Q&A / Break	
17:55 ~ 18:50 (‘55)	Open discussion / UNRISD project report	Moderated by GSEF
18:50 ~ 19:00 (‘10)	Concluding Speech (wrap up)	EURICSE
19:00 ~ 21:00	Networking dinner	

SUBTOPICS

Below is a list of topics that the Secretariat deems particularly relevant to Europe. Please note that these topics are ‘exemplary’ for the reference of panellists thus, panellists are advised not to limit

themselves to the list below in identifying presentation topics that outline current public policy challenges in their respective country and/or city.

Issues in Europe that can be addressed by panellists (exemplary)

Migration and Refugees

The influx of migrants and refugees into Europe has been blamed for causing political tensions, damaging social cohesions and further, contributing to the rise of far right political movements which go hand and hand with the weakening conventional political establishments across the continent. Can SSE public policies such as promotion of Fairtrade (and fair tourism), play a certain role for bringing back social cohesion, political stability and fair development for both Europe and countries that dispatch most of migrants and refugees to Europe?

Public services

The financial crisis in 2008 as a marked point, many of European countries (and particularly those Eurozone countries) are under strict budgetary constraints and the capability of government in providing public services has been undermined. In some countries, non-governmental organisations and private sectors are playing increasingly a bigger role in public service provisions. Under this context, there is also a tendency where municipalities are taking control back again in public service provisions notably basic utilities which once privatised and outsourced. Scandinavian countries in particular, designing and executing social welfare schemes are happening at the municipal level than any other countries in Europe. Under this dynamics, what kind of SSE public policies should we construct to better serve public wellbeing and inclusive society of Europe?

The 4th Industrial Revolution

The 4th industrial revolution is expected to transform the way we construct our economic system and the very definition of the labour and employment. On the one hand, there are positive expectations that the 4th industrial revolution will bring about fundamental progress of our life. On the other hand, there are substantial concerns that the digital economy in particular, will exacerbate socioeconomic inequality by concentrating wealth into the hands of the few and drastically decreasing employment

availabilities through automation. Europe is considered to be leading the revolution and discourses on its impacts, also it is the continent where the most innovative public policy experiments are underway,

such as basic income (as a response to drastic changes in jobs). How the SSE can leverage the 4th industrial revolution? And what kind of institutionalised public policy do we require to minimise negative impacts while taking advantage of achieving inclusive growth for all?

Financing

Effective financing strategies for enterprises which serve as an engine for economic growth and also as a catalyst for industrial innovation might be one of the most important issues in Europe, when it comes to the sustainability of its economic growth. Financing is crucial, particularly for SMEs wherein the major proportion of employment is being generated (according to the European Commission, employment created by SMEs in EU 28 countries, accounted over 66% in 2015), for start-ups that are bringing about innovations, for social enterprises targeting marginalised groups in society which are often outside of the coverage of both private and public sectors, and for cooperatives which are promoting both fairness in economic activities and democracy in the decision making process. And importantly, financing mechanisms for the SSE in Europe shall be understood in multiple layers; municipality, central government and the EU level. What could be the best ways of financing these different entities and what kind of institutionalised policy efforts shall be constructed? Also, what are the implications of EU-wide funds / funding programmes and different implementation strategies such as impact investments, social impact bonds and credit unions?

Local community

Local communities in many European countries have been playing a crucial role in revitalising post-industrial cities and achieving inclusive urban development as well as localisation of Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, there are concerns over the deterioration of enshrined community values, whether it is happening in declined urban areas due to the industrial shifts (e.g. decline in mining industry and its impacts on the local economy) or metropolis areas suffering from gentrification effects and excessive influx of tourists (e.g. recent restrictions on tourism in many cities to protect their local citizens). In relation to these changes, Europe is implementing various initiatives such as community anchors and local currencies to revitalise local communities. What can be the implications during this process and how SSE public policies can play a role to promote local community as a key to resolve various social and economic issues that Europe is facing today?



Separatism

Separatist movements can be observed widely in many European countries to varying extents such as withdrawal from the EU (Brexit) and separatism within a nation (the Catalan independence). One of the main reasons for the phenomenon could be the public uneasiness with the decision making process in their political, economic and social issues that dictate citizens daily life is increasingly being made top-down by the entities (such as the EU or central government) without clear consensus. What are the impacts of separatism in Europe on the efforts of cooperation among European SSE actors? And can the SSE play a certain role in democratising the decision making process that can better achieve political consensus and create cross-border synergies?

Partnership

Role of the SSE with regard to transformative partnerships in implementing various projects, (4Ps: Public-Private-People Partnership)

EU Governance

Role of the SSE with regard to political and economic power imbalance within the EU and the issue of European identity construction.

Unemployment

Role of the SSE with regard to youth and also silver unemployment in the context of demographic decline in Europe.

Security

Role of the SSE with regard to impacts of terrorism on society and local community.

Misc.

Other Misc. issues identified by panellists.



DELIVERY

Session I

Participants of *the panel session (local government representatives)* are kindly advised to prepare ppt slides (max 10 slides for 10mins) that outline answers of the four common questions listed below.

1. What is the most pressing public policy challenge in your country and/or city identified by your organisation?
2. What kind of SSE policies can be leveraged to resolve identified challenges above?
3. What type of partnership does the solution require (particularly at the municipal level)?
4. What are the lessons? Is it transferable to other countries and/or cities?

Session II

Participants of *the interactive dialogue session (SSE network representatives)* are not required to prepare ppt slides as the session will proceed in a more flexible manner with a moderator. Participants shall outline the four questions listed above and/or comment on panellists' case presentations where they deem it relevant to share their insights and experiences. PPT slides and/or writing-ups of the session I panellists will be shared with SSE network representatives once the Secretariat compiles all the contents.