Inequalities in the world

According to the most recent estimates, at the end of 2021, there were more than 716 million people who were living in poverty in the world, including 61% in Asia and Oceania, 24% in South America and 24% in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, starting from the beginning of recent years, Latin America and Asia have seen an increase in the number of people living in poverty. There are large regional differences in the magnitude of the problem, with high poverty rates in South America and sub-Saharan Africa, and low poverty rates in Western Europe and Northern America.

The gap between the North and the South in terms of probability, at one time the gap between the poor and the rich in Europe and in the world has narrowed, and has been partially filled by the process of globalization. The gap between the North and the South has narrowed, and has been partially filled by the process of globalization.

The many inequalities that characterize the world in which we live have led to the establishment of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as a growing phenomenon that represents 10% of all economic activities in Europe and more than 10% of all jobs.

Social and Solidarity Economy: a growing reality

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Projects per Identified Country

- Eastern Europe
- Mediterranean Europe
- Northern - Central Europe
- World Area

Social impact

Environmental impact

Networking

Shared governance

Communication and advocacy

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Social Solidarity Economy Good practices

Innovative agriculture
From a comparative analysis of the information available about the Food Policy Councils (FPCs), it is clear that their work is helping to develop innovative agriculture. These councils help farmers and consumers to work together in partnership, sharing their knowledge and experiences, and promoting innovation and sustainability. They also create a platform for farmers to connect with each other, share resources, and develop new techniques.

There are numerous innovative practices relevant to the Social and Solidarity Economy, including those that promote greater resource productivity, optimize initiatives and markets. For example, the Circular Economy is concerned with eliminating waste material into useable products, as actions carried out.

Reduce, reuse, recycle and the circular economy
Reduction, reuse, recycling, and the circular economy are key concepts in the Social and Solidarity Economy. These practices help to reduce waste and conserve resources.

Ethical finance
Ethical finance is an important aspect of the Social and Solidarity Economy, as it promotes financial practices that are fair, transparent, and environmentally responsible. This practice is also embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SSE companies propose clean energy solutions, energy efficiency, and also includes workers participation in the running of a business restructuring or conversion process (WBO) is used to indicate the financial decisions that impact their communities. Participatory manner, involving them more actively in the process of developing sustainable and responsible businesses.

Fair trade
Fair trade is an alternative approach to conventional trade, with the aim of introducing a fair price for goods and services, and improving the living standards of producers in developing countries. This approach can take several forms, from partnerships between producers and consumers, to small producers’ shops.

Solidarity Economy are the following:

- Fair trade
- Responsible tourism
- Ethical finance
- Responsible agriculture
- Solidarity volunteering
- Worker-owned businesses
- Community-supported agriculture
- Food policy councils

Challenges
From a comparative analysis of the information available about the Social and Solidarity Economy, the main challenges for the sector in their territory. There is a need to work towards the strengthening of public policies that aim at fostering SSE, in order to encourage and support the existing initiatives.

Lack of legal and political frameworks
The research reveals a gap in the lack of regulatory measures that regulate or promote the identified practices. This gap can be filled by joint efforts of different entities, such as local authorities, universities, public bodies, SMEs and SSE representatives, to foster SSE initiatives within the sector.

Reducing, reusing, recycling, and the circular economy
Reducing, reusing, and recycling are key practices in the Social and Solidarity Economy, as they help to conserve resources and reduce waste. This approach is also embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Responsible tourism complies with the principles of respect, minimum impact on the environment, fair treatment of the community in which the tourist is visiting, and also includes workers participation in the running of a business restructuring or conversion process (WBO).

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