

INTERNATIONAL LEADING GROUP ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

www.contact@leadinggroupsse.org

VADE-MECUM

CREATION & AIMS OF THE LEADING GROUP

The **International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy (ILGSSE)**, established in **2014**, is an informal platform for discussion and exchanges of best practices relating to social and solidarity economy (SSE).

The Leading Group seeks to **promote social and solidarity economy** internationally and to make this form of entrepreneurship more accessible. It intends to **make tangible proposals and support the development of enabling public policies** at the national and international levels for the growth of SSE.

The Leading Group's mandate is to enhance knowledge of SSE and **integrate it into a new development model**, with a view to **contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Its **joint declaration**, adopted during the high level event organized in parallel with the 70th UN General Assembly, recognizes **SSE as one of the strategic transformation vectors for the integrated implementation of SDGs** in all their dimensions, particularly through its role in favour of decent job creation, including youth and women, as well as the extension of social protection, its alternative way of entrepreneurship -which has developed, created jobs and been more resilient than other economic models- and its contribution to reducing the ecological footprint of economic activities.

MEMBERS OF THE LEADING GROUP

The Leading Group currently comprises seven Member States and two observer members, as well as a number of international organizations and civil-society organizations:

MEMBER STATES: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Morocco;

OBSERVER MEMBERS: Quebec and Senegal

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, whose members are UNRISD, UN-NGLS, ILO, UNDP, UN DESA, OECD, UNCTAD, ECLAC, FAO, WHO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNECE, ESCWA, UN-Habitat, Un Women, WFP, TDR, UNAIDS.

SSE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS: SSE International Forum (**SSE/IF¹**), the International Co-operative Alliance (**ICA**), the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (**AIM**), the International Association of French-Speaking Mayors (**IAFM**), the Global Fund for Cities Development (**FMDV**), the Global Social Economy Forum (**GSEF**) and the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (**RIPESS**).

¹ The new name of *The Mont-Blanc Meetings – International Forum for the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs*

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OPERATION OF THE LEADING GROUP

The Leading Group is an **informal forum for exchange**, to which members contribute their specific expertise, best practices, initiatives and approaches to expand SSE. The Leading Group is **chaired by a Member State and coordinated by a permanent secretariat**.

PRESIDENCY OF THE LEADING GROUP

The Leading Group has a two-year rotating presidency. The presidency is held by a Member State, designated by consensus from among the members interested in the role. The incumbent presidency will hold the vice-presidency for a year to support the presidency.

The presidency of the Leading Group has the following responsibilities:

- **Acting as the Leading Group's spokesperson** to communicate messages to the international community and play a leading role in the promotion of SSE, particularly within the UN.
- **Drafting and implementing a roadmap** for the two years of the presidency in collaboration with the permanent secretariat.
- **Organize high-level working sessions, as well as initiatives and high-level events** (at least one working session and one event per year) decided by the Leading Group jointly with the permanent secretariat.

France currently holds the presidency of the Leading Group (2015-2017).

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE LEADING GROUP

The Leading Group's action is **coordinated by a permanent secretariat**, which drafts, submits for approval and monitors the **work plan of the joint declaration**, and organizes the technical working sessions and implementation of the initiatives decided by the group. To fulfil these duties, the permanent secretariat **works with technical experts and the high-level contacts designated by the members** of the Leading Group.

The permanent secretariat **is run by the NGO SSE-International Forum** jointly with the offices of France's Minister of State for Development and Francophonie and Minister of State for the Social and Solidarity Economy.

JOINING THE LEADING GROUP

Any country or organization can apply for membership of the Leading Group by **note verbale or letter addressed to the presidency of the Leading Group and the permanent secretariat** (SSE International Forum).

Membership involves signing the **joint declaration of the Leading Group** adopted at the end of the high-level event organized by the ILGSSE on the sidelines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.