



## Recommendations of the 2025 Mont Blanc Meetings

On the occasion of the 11th edition of the Mont Blanc Meetings, the International Forum for the Social and Solidarity Economy (ESS FI) brought together, on January 16, leading executives from companies in the social and solidarity economy, at the ILO headquarters in Geneva, to debate 2 major themes around the role of finance and economic pluralism in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and social development.

These discussions are in line with the global agenda, which will be punctuated in 2025 by two major international conferences: the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain in July, and the 2nd World Summit for Social Development in Qatar in November.

There is still a need to strengthen dialogue between those involved in business financing and development, and those in the social economy, in order to realize the great potential of the social economy as a provider of solutions to the challenges linked to the SDGs.

### For better financing of the SSE

- ESS FI calls on United Nations agencies and all SSE players to take full advantage of the report "Strengthening access to finance for social and solidarity economy entities: a compendium of good practices" by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE (UNTFSSSE), which highlights the difficulties faced by SSE enterprises in accessing financial products adapted to each stage of their development in the service of their mission for their community.
- ESS FI encourages the promotion and development of employee savings, retirement savings and employee dividends, drawing in particular on the strengths of the trade union movement, in order to increase employees' rights, move towards a better distribution of wealth and channel a share of the pooled capital from this immense potential towards SSE companies that share many of the trade union movement's social aims.
- ESS FI calls for banking supervision rules to take account of the specific characteristics of cooperative banks, linked to their collective ownership, their non-speculative vocation and their socio-economic and environmental value.
- ESS FI calls for the implementation and promotion of mechanisms to allocate a portion of dormant funds (funds that have not been claimed by the rightful owners) to support SSE companies and organizations.
- ESS FI would like to see the Quebec initiative on "collective entrepreneurship"<sup>1</sup>, which offers a complementary approach, become better known and more inspiring as a way of fostering social and local entrepreneurship and meeting the challenges of business transfers.
- ESS FI encourages public investment and development banks to include SSE among their priority targets, and to develop dedicated departments and experts in order to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://guides.repreneuriatcollectif.ca>



promote investment in infrastructures that are useful for human development and co-managed by SSE, thus respecting criteria and values inherent to SSE in management, governance and democratic decision-making participation.

- ESSFI strongly encourages the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to integrate the financing of SSE structures into their operations, for example in the IMF Trust Fund for Resilience and Sustainability or in the targeted activities of the International Finance Corporation.

### **Improving links between SSE and conventional companies**

- ESS FI recommends including and promoting the social/solidarity-based economy as a business model in higher and university education modules devoted to responsible business management, sustainable development and/or corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- ESS FI insists on better recognition, understanding and sharing of social innovation as a tool for guiding companies towards sustainable social development that can justify an adapted governance and/or financing model that is not solely governed by commercial law.
- ESS FI would like to see corporate performance measured and assessed using the Sustainable Development Performance Indicator (SDPI) developed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), rather than strictly accounting indicators.
- ESS FI believes that SSE companies should be included in the collective global (and regional) dialogue around social development as contributors to solutions, and stresses the importance of no longer seeing SSE reduced to philanthropic activities to be "supported".
- ESSFI encourages the widespread use of SSE companies in public procurement and supply chains, to make the SSE a real pivot and lever in the ecological, social and solidarity-based transition, from local to international.

We invite all influential individuals and organizations to take up these recommendations, which we will take to the highest level. The States, international institutions and SSE leaders present today join us in our appeal, convinced of the decisive role played by SSE in achieving the global agenda for sustainable and social development.

