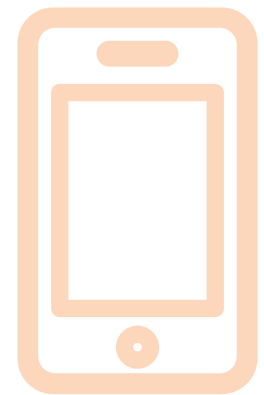# The Forum **Proceedings**

Gsef
DAKAR 2023

GLOBAL SOCIAL
AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

1 - 6 May 2023

theme 4

Solidarity and sustainable digital
economy and smart territories

VILLE DE DAKAR

RACTES
Réseau des acteurs et collectivités territoriales
pour l'économie sociale et solidaire au Sénégal

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MINISTERE DE LA MICROFINANCE
ET DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE ET SOLIDAIRE

4

Solidarity and sustainable digital economy and smart territories

There are many challenges surrounding digital technology in a hyper-competitive and monopolistic economy. The Social and Solidarity Economy therefore has the opportunity to leverage digital technology as a tool and to adopt responsible practices. Digital technology can encourage democratic debate within SSE organisations (networks, members, employees, volunteers and beneficiaries), simplify the management of internal operations and the collection of data to measure social impact, and encourage knowledge sharing and the development of free and open source software. However, it is essential to consider environmentally friendly practices and ensure that access to digital technology is inclusive, to avoid excluding disadvantaged groups.

1 thematic plenary session

5 workshops and self-organised sessions

25 speakers

Summary of discussions

The digital economy, widely lauded and talked about, has now taken centre stage in contemporary discourse and ways of doing business. It is a fact. In a series of developments since 1970, the entire global economy has been restructured around the microprocessor and the internet. With annual sales of around €5 trillion, the many sectors that make up the IT industry have not only grown to become the world's leading industry (around 2010), they are also the sectors on which all the others depend, including a large number of business and cultural activities.

This latest industrial revolution – for that is what it is – is continuing to innovate at a pace that is both sustained and unprecedented compared with the two previous ones. It has shaped a new economic matrix in which the principles of design, relationships, product-service integration and monopolistic competition are the new pivotal forces. Its rapid advance is colliding with a socio-cultural landscape ill-prepared to deal with such a phenomenon. Apologetic or technophile stances are mirrored by rejection or scepticism, not to mention the ideological component that is constantly at work around new information and communication technologies. This makes it rather difficult to understand the ins and outs of a concept as vague as the digital economy, whose theoretical foundations and models have still not been established.

A certain realism is called for here. The impact of computerisation on the present-day economy and on the fabric of the social and solidarity economy has been considerable. One of the most powerful driving forces for change is the fragmentation of territories and competition. The productive workforce, increasingly assisted and automated, is shifting its focus to design and reflective tasks, also assisted by the computer resources available on the network (memory, processing, storage, machine control, communication, etc.). The social economy is taking part in this transformation. At the same time, information and networking have lengthened the production chains for goods and services on a global scale. Production and service activities are becoming more communicative, linked to the outside world with which they interact more seamlessly. The large factory, firmly rooted in a particular area, coexists with, or is even replaced by, small decentralised units able to play a coordinating role for an entire sector or integrate an interoperable group of producers.

As the market capitalisation of digital unicorns illustrates, capital intensity is concentrated upstream of the production phase, with increasing returns to scale. This type of return to scale reverses the classical economy based on diminishing returns to scale. The natural order in the computerised economy is therefore no longer one of perfect competition, but rather one of monopolistic competition. Monopolies and predatory practices play a decisive role. This predatory behaviour is perpetrated by exploiting the duality and opacity of information technology (discretionary capture of data), but also by pursuing the goal of achieving a monopoly or fiercely safeguarding it by legal or illegal means. This trend is not confined to "digital" companies. It is also happening in all productive and service activities as they become increasingly computerised.

As a result, the present-day economy is tending to become not only hypercompetitive, monopolistic and predatory, but also relationship-based, communicative and conducive to skills development. The social and solidarity economy, as a political economy focused on human needs, finds itself challenged by this dynamic. It needs to adapt and update its plans if it is to preserve the social and cross-cutting cohesion necessary for territorial balance.

To achieve this, the social and solidarity economy agenda has three possible areas of action:

1. Improving the territorialisation of digital resources, in other words, linking local digital stakeholders in a particular area with those in the SSE (software, connectivity, information and innovation clusters, making better use of data, etc.).

2. Developing methodological tools, in other words collective intelligence transferred to software, which in turn supports and improves the various aspects of networking. Open source software lends itself particularly well to this process.

3. Countering the predatory and dependent agenda created by monopolistic digital companies. In response to a conquering agenda that promotes itself as a provider of effective and sustainable solutions for establishing dependencies, it is in the best interests of the SSE to actively promote uses that encourage transparency, innovation (possibly under a "supervised" monopoly), data sovereignty and efficiency.

<div align="right">Mr François Soulard, Dunia Platform, Institute of Iconomy, Argentina</div>

Recommendations of Scientific Committee

01 Reduce the digital divide in the SSE by adopting open source software.

02 Make digital technology the backbone of the SSE through training and financing open source software.

03 Convince all stakeholders that the internet should be free if we are to reduce the digital divide.

04 Develop synergies between different stakeholders to create digital commons.

05 Involve diaspora nationals in financing SSE projects by setting up local digital platforms.

06 Create platforms for community financing of projects.

07 Introduce data protection regulations.

08 Introduce a digital education policy.

09 Promote digital identities, which can offer significant benefits to users, such as providing access to financial and government services, reducing corruption and fraud, and promoting financial inclusion and citizen participation.

10 Reduce the costs of internet access and information and communication technologies (ICTs), which are often high in Africa, to boost their take-up by the poorest sections of the population.

11 Expand communications infrastructure, which in some regions is inadequate or non-existent.
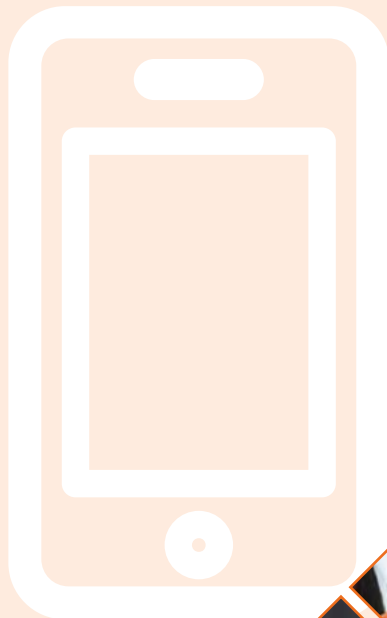
Marie-Lucienne Ratier
Jean-Michel Sahut
Cheikh Abdou Lahad Thiaw
Bitilokho Ndiaye

REPLAY

Carmen Kiavila, François Soulard

Chaired by: Mr Moussa Bocar Thiam, Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Economy, Senegal

Moderated by:
- Mr Cheikh Abdoul Ahad Thiaw, Consultant, LogiKOption Consulting; Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal
- Mr Hyungsik Eum, Research Director, International Cooperative Alliance, Belgium

Speakers:
- Ms Kolia Bénié, Member of the Board of Directors, Konexio, France
- Mr Daouda Gueye, City Councillor responsible for ICT, City of Dakar, Senegal
- Ms Marie-Lucienne Rattier, Councillor responsible for digital development, French Guiana Regional Authority, France
- Mr François Soulard, Dunia Platform, Institute of Iconomy, Argentina
- Mr Karim Sy, Founder of JokkoLabs, Senegal
- Ms Carmen Kiavila, Attorney, Kiavila Avocats, Switzerland, France
- Ms Bitilokho Ndiaye, Director of the Promotion of the Digital Economy, Ministry for Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Economy, Senegal
- Mr Jean-Michel Sahut, IDRAC Business School, France
- Ms Nafi GUEYE, Founder of J'Existe, Senegal

Summary

- Digital technology is seen as both an opportunity and a powerful factor in reorganising the SSE and, more broadly, the economy. As a consequence, the environment in which the SSE operates is expanding, and it must adapt to this.

- The idea of taking advantage of the opportunity that digital technology offers is linked to the growth of activities (employment, emergence of new needs (customer-business), expansion of the scope of services and relationships, citizen participation and collective intelligence in public policies, etc.) and to new organisational methods (crowdfunding, new distribution of value, platforms, etc.).

- The reorganising factor is viewed in a more ambiguous way, and relates as much to the rise of predatory behaviour, conflict situations and the fragmentation of territories as to the cultural challenges posed by the introduction of digital technology into production processes.

- In this context, talking about smart territories is less about IT technologies "plastered" on territories than it is about highlighting the horizontal interconnections re-established within these territories through policies and technologies designed to support these interconnections.

- The quest for interconnectedness means in turn building "horizontal" solidarity, reducing the fragmentation resulting from the vertical integration of territories into globalisation, including marginalised groups, linking themes together or making the local economic fabric competitive.

- The best way to build these interconnections is to use projects, relationships and knowledge. There is, of course, no obligation for stakeholders in a given area to build an SSE agenda, let alone a broader agenda on territorial cohesion. To achieve this, we need to create forums – and with them legitimacy – that can be used to develop projects, put stakeholders in touch with each other and equip them with the intelligence to understand the power relationships and issues at stake. This approach applies to digital stakeholders and helps to make regions "smart".

- New institutional arrangements are at the heart of this territorial intelligence, meaning that organisational methods must focus on relationship management, the interplay between different scales, and the creative link between unity and diversity. The governance methods typically used in the public and private spheres favour compartmentalised, vertical approaches. We therefore need to promote a different approach to governance, one that is tantamount to a reversal of perspective.

- The digital economy has characteristics that may well strengthen this territorial approach (e.g. tracing of materials/energy used, circular nature of exchanges, recycling and decarbonisation). But these characteristics still need to be integrated into an overall vision and theoretical models of the economy, which are currently lacking.

Main recommendations

- Develop a form of territorial governance based on relationships, horizontal interconnections and the creative relationship between unity and diversity.

- Develop digital experiments that contribute to this approach, going beyond the label of smart cities, which can tend to standardise territorial approaches vertically.

- Change the ways in which the world and the SSE are perceived: the economy is at the centre of conflict and power relations, and therefore of politics. It is no longer a source of "soft trade" or pacification, even if it may contribute to it. The UN and academic systems are silent on these issues, which implies a departure to some extent from a conformist approach.

- Consider an active and combative approach to the SSE, in other words, an approach that is aware of the cultural and organisational shifts needed to build a balanced economy that can use information as a lever for change.

- The SSE can bring about these kinds of transformations if it becomes an organised collective force (perception of economic challenges, vision and strategic agenda, coordination of the various initiatives).

Key points raised by speakers

Marie-Lucienne Rattier
- French Guiana is the largest overseas department (84,000 km2) and also the least populated; 50% of its population is under 20, while 30% of households live below the poverty line.
- There is an initiative underway to improve control over infrastructure, with a fibre optic backbone installed with EllaLink (French Guiana-Brazil-Portugal link), a low-earth orbit satellite, the introduction of cyber-kiosks to improve citizen access to government services, and an e-health system that has emerged following COVID-19.
- The Digital Affairs Office's current roadmap focuses on the following three areas:
- Area 1: Inclusion, citizens and territory;
- Area 2: Digital services of the future, supporting the transformation of society;
- Area 3: Sustainable development of local areas and their resilience.
- A "smart territory" is fundamentally focused on the quality of life of its inhabitants, public services and the environment.
- Promoting a smart territory requires a clear strategy, a functioning infrastructure (connectivity), the involvement of the community and, finally, the development of a culture of innovation.
- The African continent's profile is interesting in that it has similar challenges to French Guiana's (digital divide, social heterogeneity, proliferation of mobile networks driving innovation, voice recognition in local dialects).
- On the question of security, French Guiana has set up a cybersecurity association to help companies that have fallen victim to cyberattacks, in partnership with the French cybersecurity agency, ANSSI.

Daouda Gueye
- Digital technology is increasing the scope of public action and the solutions proposed by the city of Dakar. In addition, IT is being integrated across all departments and projects.
- In terms of projects, three main avenues are being pursued:
- Developing services for users, for example the computerisation of the application process for student grants and processes related to the provision of health services (mandates granted according to health needs).
- Encouraging the employability of young people through training (in particular with a professional certification established with Amazon Web Service). The city is trying to capitalise on the wealth of jobs created by the digital sector.
- Reducing the digital divide with the Li-Fi project (connection via light signals, one of the sponsors of which is Suat Topsu from the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin in France).
- The idea is to integrate Dakar into the network of smart cities, working with Atos and the Urban Data Platform (open consolidation of digital solutions to move towards interoperability).
- Creation of a citizen observatory to enhance digital projects with a view to promoting collective intelligence (hackathon of 400 projects); the city of Dakar is not particularly focused on free access to IT tools, but the SSE must consider this important point.

Bitilokho Ndiaye
- The impact of digital technology is visible at social, political, economic and environmental levels.
- Senegal sees digital technology as a development policy for "everyone", with the aim of creating 35,000 jobs in the sector.
- The main areas of work relate to: support for start-ups (certification with access to financing and living labs for operators); setting up an IT platform for the private sector to develop its initiatives; capacity building through training; and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Kolia Benie
- Since 2016, the Konexio non-profit group has become a training centre for digital and office skills for the most vulnerable groups (refugees, new arrivals, mothers returning to work, young people from working-class neighbourhoods and the suburban population). Its work is aligned with the concerns of local authorities and decision-makers about integration policies, as they identify needs and map out problems.
- Its philosophy is based on the idea that if someone is digitally independent, then they can be economically independent. The networking of training provision with other government departments is a policy that has been developed alongside an advocacy strategy at national level aimed at improving consistency (links with the Ministry for Digital Transformation and the Ministry for the Social and Solidarity Economy).
- Various international cooperation projects are also underway in Kenya, Malawi and Jordan.

Karim Sy
- Experience in the private sector and founder of one of Senegal's first full-service consultancies to deal with a world beset by protean crises.
- Action in the private sector has revealed its limitations over time, particularly in the way that it does not operate using a relationship-based approach, but rather a compartmentalised one (issues, stakeholders, etc.); yet contemporary problems require all stakeholders to be brought to the table.
- Jokko Labs has developed as a cooperative that is preparing for the "relationship-based, integrated" world of tomorrow, in which the ultimate goal is people's quality of life.
- How do we build trust in politicians and large companies, which are increasingly under scrutiny, in explosive environments where we need to develop intelligence in a highly contentious atmosphere?
- Digital technology can make it easier to exchange ideas and combine solutions; there is no North and South in digital technology, there are significant – and sometimes deliberately maintained – divisions between stakeholders.
- Digital technology moves too fast and does not leave enough time to absorb an innovation, hence the need to organise knowledge and learning spaces to build relationships.
- A session was held with CGLU on digital cities, which led to the creation of a proto-alliance of digital cities where the living labs approach (coordination and relationships) is important.
- Africa is not chasing technology, but rather is looking for technology that works for people. With this in mind, open source – in other words, access to knowledge that can be harnessed by local stakeholders – is an approach that should be encouraged.
- The commons approach (Nobel Prize won by Elenor Ostrom in 2009) contrasts with a reality dominated by strategies for plundering knowledge, markets and skills, which intrude into the open source space to feed the rationale behind appropriation.
- The digital commons are founded around a community of people who preserve a product or service, with new commercial approaches and emerging value-creation chains that need to be integrated into economic models.
- The fact that stakeholders were forced into a corner during the COVID-19 crisis meant that they were able to come together around the table in an unprecedented way.
- Institutional arrangements must continue to be strengthened to foster relationships and coordination.

Nafi Gueye
- In Senegal, 4 million people have no identity documents, even though Dakar was one of the first African cities to computerise its civil registry. Digitalisation actually poses a problem in terms of electoral interests when it comes to changing the way identity data is managed. It is very difficult at the moment to bring the stakeholders together around this issue.
- Since 2019, the Jexiste association has been using digital technology to reach people in socio-cultural contexts that cannot be replicated from or to industrial countries.
- Birth registration is still handwritten in Senegal, and there are no synergies between digital innovations and the culture of institutional stakeholders.
- There is a legal barrier to accessing or modifying population and personal data. As a result, the association has focused on communicating with the government and the general public.
- In practice, most of the schemes favour stakeholders who are established in and capitalised through the traditional economy, with no approach for the social economy and other realities.
- The use of communication networks (in particular video) can leverage and sometimes short-circuit institutional mechanisms.
- There is a need to raise awareness and provide decentralised support for people to improve their digital skills and learn the tools that are essential for the work environment (office software, data structure, etc.), which has fallen behind on these issues.

Jean-Michel Sahut
- A scientific analysis based on two experiences: microfinance in Cameroon and crowdfunding in the Loire Valley.
- In terms of organisation, there is internal momentum in the search for better performance in the processes of companies and the SSE. Without support for change and training, this will not succeed.
- Externally, digitalisation has opened up new opportunities. For microfinance, it has led to savings being collected, related issues being resolved (digitalisation of products) and new people being reached.
- In the Loire Valley, there was a lack of structure and financing. With crowdfunding, investment has tripled thanks to a partnership with local people, the region and banks.
- The African diaspora could use a platform to raise funds for specific projects, supplemented by local partners.
- Research is a source of assessment for projects and promotion for initiatives.

Carmen Kiavila
- Digital technology has seen value chains move towards combining a product and a service.
- The supply of information and the unification that information brings also contributes to the "circularity" and sustainability of products.
- Generally speaking, in the North as in the South, digital innovation provides a way of reconnecting with the goals of sustainability and decarbonisation of the economy (according to the criteria set out by the UN).
- Local residents and municipalities can take action to assert new climate rights at national and supra-national level.

François Soulard
- The platform created in 2012 from the Rio+20 Earth Summit with the idea of providing tools for networked action, against the backdrop of a growing information battle over sustainability and – more importantly – geo-economics.
- The multilateral atmosphere of the 1990s, shaped by American triumphalism, has come to an end. There is a return to nationalism and the desire of nations to influence regional and global developments, with a number of countries falling out of step with the anachronistic UN system.
- In the economic sphere, the system of "perfect competition" and liberalism has given way to state capitalism and growing monopolistic competition, fuelled by computerisation. Humanist appearances aside, reality is riddled with power relations that play a significant role.
- The computerised economy has given rise to new economic models. The economy is tending to reorganise itself around the design of a package of products and services. Returns to scale are increasing, while capital intensity has risen exponentially. Computerised businesses are becoming more communicative, relationship-oriented and innovative. The SSE has bounced back in part on this capacity for innovation.
- The consequence is the creation of a more predatory economy, in other words one that is more inclined to fight (either legally or illegally) to conquer or maintain a monopoly, to innovate or to harness knowledge and attract financing. Territories have been fragmented by the reconfiguration of value chains. This approach is reawakening a climate of "economic warfare" and, so to speak, a duty of "combativeness" for the SSE.
- The good news is that information is transforming the balance of power: a weak player is capable of challenging a strong player and competing for a market through innovation or the information battle, which is a lever for the SSE.
- It is important to explore computerised economic models that can forecast new economic behaviours in an integrated way, an approach that is not theorised (or is poorly theorised) at present.
- We need to defend strategist governments that build infrastructure such as universities, research centres, financing mechanisms and connectivity structures. This infrastructure is the backbone of digital technology and an ally of the SSE.
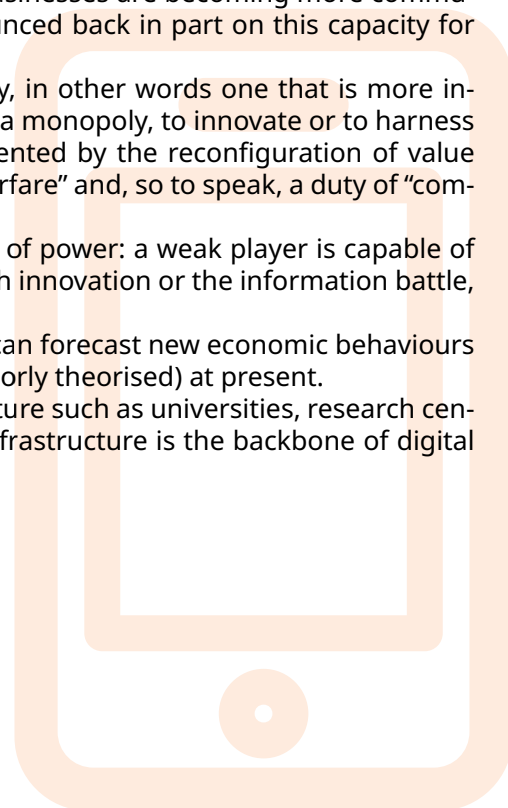
workshops and self-organised sessions

REPORT

Digital technology serving solidarity and economic dynamics of the territory

Moderation :
- Amine ZIZI, *Paris 8 University/IUT Montreuil (France)*
- Daouda GUEYE, *City Councillor responsible for ICT, City of Dakar (Senegal)*

Speakers :
- Marie-France BELLEMARE, *Director, Insertech (Canada)*
- Fabrice Adelphe BALOU, *President, ABEWE Platform (Côte d'Ivoire)*
- Jason NARDI, *RIPESS Europe (Luxembourg)*

WORKSHOP 4AT2 REPORT

Digital initiatives and smart territories

Moderation : Marielle BABOULALL, *Lecturer in Economics, Paris 8 University/IUT Montreuil (France)*

Speakers :
- Assane DIOUCK, *Doctor of Geography, Cheikh Anta Diop University; Consultant, GERAD (Senegal)*
- Elisenda VEGUE, *Director of Socio-Economic Innovation, Barcelona Activa (Spain)*
- Seydou BOCOUM, *Secretary General, REFRESS – Francophone Network for the Social and Solidarity Economy (Senegal)*

WORKSHOP 4AT3 REPORT

Collaboration and instruments to support the digitalisation of the Social and Solidarity Economy

Moderation : Jean Michel SAHUT, *Professor, IDRAC Business School (Switzerland)*

Speakers :
- Françoise VAN ZEEBROEK, *Political Adviser, ConcertES (Belgium)*
- Carolina GARCÍA, *Business leader, Niit Tekna Logic (Senegal)*
- Marta BRUSCHI, *Diesis Network (Belgium)*

SESSION 4SA1 REPORT

Recycl'Ordi workshop

Session organised by the French Guiana Regional Authority

Speakers :
- Marie-Lucienne RATTIER, *Councillor responsible for digital development, French Guiana Regional Authority*
- Angelina AZANZA, *Director, GuyaClic' Association (French Guiana)*
- Elodie EUGENIE, *Director, Regional SSE Chamber of French Guiana*

Sessions of the Women's Day for SSE

SESSION PFF4SA1 REPORT

Women's Empowerment and Digital: @KISSI Project

Speaker :
- Sarah TIDOU, *Founder of @KISSI, Managing Director of Oasis Corporate (Côte d'Ivoire)*

Collaboration and instruments to support the digitalisation of the Social and Solidarity Economy

Moderated by: Jean Michel Sahut, *Professor, IDRAC Business School (Switzerland)*
Speakers:
• Françoise Van Zeebroek, *Political Adviser, ConcertES (Belgium)*
• Carolina García, *Business leader, Niit Tekna Logic (Senegal)*
• Marta Bruschi, *Diesis Network (Belgium)*

Rapporteur's summary
• The Social and Solidarity Economy as a complement to public service
• The SSE empowers citizens
• The SSE should be a lever for access to development
• The SSE must adapt to ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)
• The importance of digitalisation to lighten the workload
• Debate during this workshop on "Who can finance SSE projects in Africa?", citizens or emigrants (foreigners)?
• Challenges of transparency when implementing a project once financing has been found

Main recommendations
• Involve foreign nationals in financing SSE projects by setting up local digital platforms by region or city
• Reduce the digital divide in the SSE through training and the adoption of open source software
• Connect the SSE with open source software communities to develop domain-specific software

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Key points raised by speakers

Françoise Van Zeebroek
• Open technology and the social economy
• The predominant business model in the technology sector is Big Tech, which is also used in the agri-food and health sectors
• SSE initiatives lead primarily to democratic and participative management of enterprising associations and social enterprises
• The development of open source software involves complex development processes carried out by thousands of people in a decentralised way
• The open technology philosophy is also having an impact in the cultural field, as in the case of "Creative Commons"

Carolina García
• Belgium's experience with the government-backed "Co-synthesis" project
• Creation of a platform that brings together SSE companies involved in various fields such as renewable energy

• The government is working to speed up the digitalisation of businesses
• COVID-19 highlighted the challenges of digitalisation
• Financing via grants and support for businesses to accelerate digitalisation: the Belgian experience
• Support through change management or project awareness campaigns

Marta Bruschi
• Italy's experience: working hard to use technology to our advantage
• The war in Ukraine and the refugee problem in the spotlight
• COVID-19 highlighted the importance of digitalisation
• Digital transformation is also a challenge
• Technology must help to retain knowledge and networking skills

in-depth reports

Digital technology serving solidarity and economic dynamics of the territory

Moderated by:
• Amine Zizi, *Paris 8 University/IUT Montreuil (France)*
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• Fabrice Adelphe Balou, *President, ABEWE Platform (Côte d'Ivoire)*
• Jason Nardi, *RIPESS Europe (Luxembourg)*

Rapporteur's summary
• The digital economy as a means of social and sustainable employability
• A more socially and environmentally responsible digital world
• The promotion and development of local resources and local entrepreneurship
• Challenges in developing the circular economy
• Access to knowledge (as a means of learning) and thoughtful use of digital technology
• Social and solidarity-based finance for digital technology
• Closer collaboration between local organisations
• Strategies for networking and targeting vulnerable people
• Issues relating to product quality and labelling (e.g. organic)

Main recommendations
• Extend the lifespan of IT equipment
• Use energy sparingly as a means of reducing energy bills
• Promote educational and awareness-raising programmes on the use of technology
• Encourage decentralised cooperation to increase know-how in developing and emerging countries and reduce technological inequalities
• Pursue innovative public policies in the sector to increase the number of jobs

Key points raised by speakers

Marie-France Bellemare
• Digital technology is a driving force behind social and solidarity initiatives
• INSERTECH, a social and solidarity enterprise involved in the recycling and repair of old, reusable digital equipment
• INSERTCH's goal: to invest in social and professional integration by helping people to enter the job market in a sustainable way, through the recycling and online resale of refurbished appliances
• Three concepts developed:
- Responsible computing (digital uses and tools designed to limit negative environmental and social external impacts). In practical terms, this means thinking about the priorities for digital uses in social and environmental areas

- Digital literacy (the ability to use digital tools in day-to-day life to find useful information)
- The circular economy, which is governed by two mechanisms: rethinking the system and optimising it around the principles of buying less, maintaining and repairing equipment. Digital technology must remain a tool for development, with access to equipment, access to knowledge and thoughtful, responsible use
• Rethinking production and consumption
• Maximising the use of non-renewable resources
• Reusing materials to produce less and buy less
• Limitations: risk of obsolete equipment, financing difficulties

Fabrice Adelphe Balou
- ABEWE, an online information-gathering and marketing platform for identifying high-quality products, finding buyers, creating social bonds and cooperation, developing value chains, promoting social impact investment and creating decent, sustainable jobs
- Multi-stakeholder platform linking producers (farmers, breeders, fishermen, cooperatives, etc.) and buyers (retailers, restaurants, hotels, local authorities, economic interest groups, etc.)
- Achieving SDG 17 by strengthening cooperation between the local public sector and producers

- Promoting sustainable development in agriculture
- Training, talks and networking
- 50% of the platform's profits are reinvested in the community

Jason Nardi
- Rethinking/deconstructing the ideology of digital practices within communities
- Co-production of public policies to promote the SSE
- SSE Free and Open Technology Charter
- Promoting social justice at international level

SESSION 4SA1 **BACK TO CONTENTS**

Recycl'Ordi workshop

Session organised by the French Guiana Regional Authority

Speakers:
- Marie-Lucienne Rattier, *Councillor responsible for digital development, French Guiana Regional Authority*
- Angelina Azanza, *Director, GuyaClic' Association (French Guiana)*
- Elodie Eugenie, *Director, CRESS-Guyane*

Rapporteur's summary
- Circular economy based on sustainable development
- Employment and training of young people through work integration schemes
- Improved access to IT equipment
- Structuring and professionalisation
- Public policy focusing on digital technology in the SSE
- Recycling of technological materials to reduce environmental impact
- Organisation and development of other SSE sectors
- A green and social economy jointly built by the public and the state
- Leveraging crowdfunding
- Digital inclusion and capacity for innovation

Main recommendations
- Encourage decentralised cooperation to increase know-how in developing and emerging countries and reduce technological inequalities
- Pursue innovative public policies in the digital sector to increase the number of jobs
- Promote educational and awareness-raising programmes on the use of technology
- Extend the lifespan of IT equipment through recycling

Key points raised by speakers

- Access to IT and digital tools
- Training and use of new information and communication technologies
- Social action
- Education
- Business and personal services
- Sports and leisure

- Digital technology
- Crafts and heritage
- Sustainable employment for young people
- Role of women in the SSE

Digital initiatives and smart territories

Moderated by: Marielle Baboulall, *Lecturer in Economics, Paris 8 University/IUT Montreuil (France)*
Speakers:
• Assane Diouck, *Doctor of Geography, Cheikh Anta Diop University; Consultant, GERAD (Senegal)*
• Elisenda Vegue, *Director of Socio-Economic Innovation, Barcelona Activa (Spain)*
• Seydou Bocoum, *Secretary General, REFRESS – Francophone Network for the Social and Solidarity Economy (Senegal)*

Rapporteur's summary
• Before talking about smart cities in Africa, the continent must first be connected
• Need for a digital identity that can identify everyone digitally
• Digitalisation is a highly complex process
• Dakar can become a smart city in less than a year
• Each city has its own unique circumstances, so it is impossible to replicate the Barcelona model in Senegal
• Lack of digital strategies in Senegal

Main recommendations
• Encourage the development of "livings labs" or "fab labs"
• Encourage the involvement of local authorities in managing Train Express Regional (TER) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services
• Promote renewable energies, an important aspect of an intelligent city
• Set up a fund to finance digital projects
• Encourage governments to support the digitalisation of businesses to achieve the targets set
• Digitalising businesses for a competitive economy

Key points raised by speakers

Assane Diouck
• The interplay of stakeholders and the creation of a smart city in the Dakar metropolitan area
• Management for digital technology in local authorities
• Control of the digital space in the Dakar metropolitan area
• The Diamniadio urban centre, an example of a smart city in the Dakar region

Elisenda Vegue
• Barcelona Activa, a programme launched in 2021 in Barcelona to create sustainable businesses
• Digitalising and interconnecting all businesses
• Gender inequality in business digitalisation
• Digitalisation training for 129 people and 25 organisations
• A tool called DIGITESS has been set up to serve the digitalisation needs of companies
• Goal: to digitalise all Barcelona-based SSE enterprises by 2030

Seydou Bocoum
• Our cities need to understand the digital space before they can aspire to digitalisation
• Possibility of replicating the Barcelona model in Africa
• The digitalisation of our cities is a highly complex process
• How are we supposed to talk about smart cities in Africa when we have the most expensive internet tariffs?
• Financing of SSE enterprises

Women's Empowerment and Digital: @KISSI Project

Speaker: Sarah Tidou, *Founder of @KISSI, Managing Director of Oasis Corporate (Côte d'Ivoire)*

Rapporteur's summary
- The informal economy affects young people (95.8% of 15- to 24-year-olds) and women (92.1%) in particular, and makes a major contribution to reducing poverty
- Overview of the @KISSI solution at GSEF2023, highlighting that this social solution contributes to the growth of the Social and Solidarity Economy
- The @KISSI solution empowers women using digital tools and contributes to the growth of the SSE

Main recommendation
Inform and train people who do not own a smartphone to use this method, so that everyone can benefit from it.

Key points raised by the speaker

- Over 80% of jobs in urban areas are informal
- According to the World Bank, the informal sector is the main employer and the cornerstone of economic activity in African cities
- Jobs for young people and women in the informal sector
- Overview of a technology called @KISSI, an e-commerce platform primarily aimed at women
- Digital solutions tailored to income-generating activities, particularly businesses in the informal sector (management tools, visibility, training)
- The solution is also open to people who are illiterate or speak local languages
- Application available on Play Store, monthly subscription depending on business size. Packages from 3,000 to 30,000 Francs CFA per month
- The @KISSI solution works in partnership with Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry for SMEs and has already been set up in Senegal, Algeria and Togo