



**Montréal 2016**  
Forum mondial de  
l'économie sociale



## Invitation

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From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, mayors, representatives of local governments and of international organizations and social and solidarity economy (SSE) stakeholders from around the world will gather in Montreal to take part in the third edition of the Global Social Economy Forum – GSEF2016. It is our great pleasure to invite you to take part in this event.

Co-organized by the City of Montréal and the Chantier de l'économie sociale, the GSEF2016 will be an outstanding opportunity for government representatives and representatives of the social and solidarity economy to discuss collaborative efforts that create jobs, ensure a quality of life, contribute to social cohesion and support the more intelligent and sustainable development of cities. Actors of the SSE from more than 50 countries have confirmed their attendance to the event.

The program, based on more than 100 initiatives from 37 countries, bears witness to the importance and diversity of practices that have been implemented around the globe to concretely answer the challenges faced by city administrations and the communities that live there. This is the reason many local governments from around the globe as well as international institutions have committed to attend the Forum in order to participate in the discussions

The success of the Forum will be based on the diversity of the contributions, and we are convinced that your attendance will be highly enriching.

The [GSEF2016 promotional video](#) is also a great way to get a glimpse of what the forum will present. To learn more about the forum and to register, visit the forum's website [www.gsef2016.org](http://www.gsef2016.org).

You can also follow and share news about GSEF2016 on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For any questions regarding your participation, and to confirm your attendance, we invite you to contact the GSEF2016 Secretariat at the following address: [secretariat@gsef2016.org](mailto:secretariat@gsef2016.org).

Sincerely,

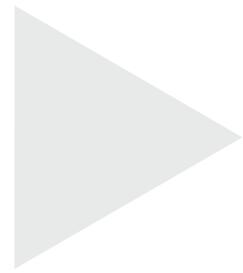
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Béatrice Alain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

On behalf of the GSEF2016 organizing committee:

Béatrice Alain  
Executive Director, GSEF2016 Global Social Economy Forum  
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**Montréal 2016**  
Global Social  
Economy Forum



Local Governments and  
Social Economy Stakeholders

# Allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities

**September 7-9, 2016**  
Palais des congrès, Montréal, Canada

[www.gsef2016.org](http://www.gsef2016.org)



Montréal





## 3 DAYS / OVER 30 WORKSHOPS / SITE VISITS AND HUNDREDS OF MEETING OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Share your best practices** for the development of cities supported by local governments and learn about others in place elsewhere in the world
- ◆ **Identify opportunities and challenges for collaborations** between your **local governments** and **SSE actors**
- ◆ **Promote coordinated international actions** to foster the development of the SSE in your area.

**More than 2,000 participants** from every continent will be converging in Québec's metropolis to discuss and work on the central theme of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF2016): **the collaboration between local governments and the social economy for the development of cities.**

### Expected participants:

**Local governments:** elected officials and delegates

**Social and solidarity economy organizations and networks**

**Researchers**

**The private sector**

**Civil society**

## WHAT IS THE GSEF?

The Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) is an international association that brings together local governments and civil society actors who are committed to supporting the development of the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

Its mission is to promote cooperation among social and solidarity economy organizations and local governments in order to enable the creation of quality jobs, equitable growth and the advancement of participatory democracy and sustainable development.

At the association's founding meeting in 2014, the GSEF's members adopted a charter establishing its principles and operations, including the holding of a forum every two years. The first two forums were held in Seoul in 2013 and 2014.

[www.gsef2016.org](http://www.gsef2016.org)

# THEME

Across the world, **the social and solidarity economy (SSE)** generates important economic impact, and, more importantly, social innovations that help **address the challenges faced by city administrations** and their communities. Whether it is meeting essential needs such as housing and food security, ensuring an adequate quality of life for residents through local services, cultural activities, and other recreational services, or contributing to social cohesion, SSE initiatives create jobs and support the more **intelligent and sustainable development** of cities.

Because of this, the aim of GSEF2016 is to facilitate collaboration between local governments and SSE actors by highlighting best practices, whether they be processes, tools, or innovative results emerging from co-constructed public policies. These **best practices** will be presented mainly by SSE and local government actors, though innovative citizen initiatives and private sector projects developed with the SSE will also be brought to the fore.



