



JUNE 2012

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Dear actors and supporters of the social and solidarity economy,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the first newsletter of the RELIESS, an international center for referencing and networking on public policies for the social and solidarity economy (SSE). This center was created by the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* following the International Forum on the social and solidarity economy (FIESS) that took place in October 2011 to further facilitate and enrich the productive discussions that were generated during the event.

We invite you to get to know the RELIESS website ([www.reliess.org](http://www.reliess.org)), to share with us relevant news on public policy for the SSE and to send us any questions or special inquiries you may have on the subject.

## **A New Tool for Actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy**

The RELIESS endeavours to foster the international dissemination of information on public policy, particularly collaboration processes between civil society and the public sector that have made the development of innovative SSE experiences possible. It also intends to enable the international networking of actors around the development of public policies for the social and solidarity economy, both within civil society and within public administrations.

To do this, the RELIESS relies on a committee of international partners which includes the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy of Quebec, the International Development Research Centre of Canada, the International Labour Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy and many others.

***The quarterly newsletters of the RELIESS aims to be a communication and exchange tool on public policy for the SSE. As such, we invite any actor of the SSE looking to establish ties with other organizations on these topics to contact us. These calls will be published in the next newsletter in September.***



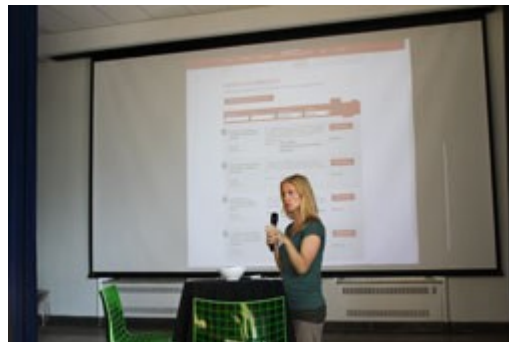
## Official Launch of the RELIESS

On June 11<sup>th</sup> the official launch of the RELIESS was held in Montreal. This event brought together business leaders and social economy sector networks, researchers and representatives of labour unions, local development organizations, municipalities and other public and civil society actors keen to share their knowledge and experiences on innovative public policy in favor of the social and solidarity economy.



## A New Resource Centre

The event was an opportunity to present the objectives and the tools of the RELIESS including its documentation center. The centre brings together many documents related to public policies on the SSE. It includes several of the FIESS presentations, summaries of best practices, briefs of research and analysis on these questions, fact sheets and tools and guides useful for actors in government or in civil society working on the development of new policies for the SSE. Contributions and the cooperation of FIESS participants to the center are of course much appreciated.



*The centre gathers presentations from the FIESS, summaries of experiences, research and analyses, briefs, practical tools, etc.*



## A New Series of Case Studies

We are very pleased to announce the production of a 5 new country case studies similar to the studies produced for the FIESS. These studies will focus on Burkina Faso, Cuba, South Korea, Ecuador and Nepal. If you are an actor or an academic from these countries and interested to contribute to these studies, please contact us at [reliess@chantier.qc.ca](mailto:reliess@chantier.qc.ca).



## Overview of News Published on the RELIESS

### ASIA

#### **SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO SUPPORT THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

The city of Seoul, South Korea has launched the Social Economy Supporting Project as part of its mission to aid the recovery of the local economy and local communities, through cooperation and mutual beneficial exchanges.

[Read more](#)

#### **THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS BACK ON SOCIAL FINANCE**

The Senate Economics Committee tabled a report on November 25th 2011 entitled *Investing for good: the development of a capital market for the not-for-profit sector in Australia*, which explores finance options for the not-for-profit sector.

[Read more](#)

### LATIN AMERICA

#### **CONSULTATIONS TO DEVELOP THE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN ECUADOR**

The government met with the social organizations in order to work with them in the construction of public policies for the solidarity economy. There has been progress on several issues such as citizen participation, social policy, youth participation and agriculture.

[Read more](#)

#### **NEW STATE LAW ON SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN BAHIA - BRAZIL**

Bahia, Brazil has just created a new legal framework that will contribute to strengthening the entrepreneurial initiatives of the solidarity economy and efforts for the eradication of poverty in the state.

[Read more](#)



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DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE

## NORTH AMERICA

### BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, INTRODUCES ACT ALLOWING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COMPANIES

Changes to the Business Corporations Act of British Columbia in Canada would allow for a new hybrid type of company – the community contribution company – that combines socially beneficial purposes with a restricted ability to distribute profits to shareholders.

[Read more](#)

### NOVA SCOTIA SUPPORTS SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Social enterprises across Nova Scotia will now have access to small business loans, through the provincially funded Credit Union Small Business Loan Program.

[Read more](#)

## EUROPE

### EUROPEAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUNDS

The economic and monetary affairs committee (ECON) of the European Parliament has adopted new legislative proposals that aim to create a new type of European investment fund providing capital to the social economy. This would give a crucial boost to this important sector of the European economy.

[Read more](#)

### MINISTRY FOR THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY CREATED IN FRANCE

The newly elected French president, Francois Hollande, appointed Benoît Hamon as Deputy Minister for the Social Solidarity Economy. The fact that the department in question is attached to the powerful Ministry of Economy and Finance reinforces the importance of this nomination.

[Read more](#)

## AFRICA

### ILO RECOMMENDS POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF THE SSE AS A SOLUTION TO HELP SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTH AFRICA

In the wake of 2011's Arab world uprisings, which many believe were at least partly spurred by chronic unemployment and economic exclusion, the International Labour Organization believes that employment must be placed at the center of macroeconomic policies and that social economy and solidarity should serve as a bridge between formal and informal economies.

[Read more](#)

### UGANDA INCLUDES SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ITS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The high school social entrepreneurship curriculum will teach the youth how to create initiatives that address the challenges of poverty, disease and environmental degradation, among others.

[Read more](#)