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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 second newsletter of the RELIESS, an international center for referencing and networking on public policies for the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

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.

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 at [reliess@chantier.qc.ca](mailto:reliess@chantier.qc.ca).

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

## Framework Law to Recognize the Social and Solidarity Economy in Several Countries

While several countries are currently working to develop a law on the social and solidarity economy others have recently passed legislation to this effect.

Overall, the goal is to recognize the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to economic wealth creation, sustainable development and community development in legislative commitments.

[France](#) is currently working on the development of a framework law for the social and solidarity economy which highlights the contribution of the SSE in terms of production, redistribution, job creation and job retention.

[In Quebec](#), the Prime Minister Pauline Marois announced on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 her intention to adopt framework legislation for the social economy in the next parliamentary session.

In 2011, [Spain](#), [Ecuador](#) and [Mexico](#) adopted framework laws for the SSE.

## International Exchanges on the Role of Public Policies in the SSE's Development.

### Cuba-Québec

Cuba's economy being in process of deep transformation, a delegation of senior officials and academics Cuban went to Quebec last October to meet SSE actors of Canada and establish collaborative relationships. Discussions showcased the transformations taking place in the Cuban economy and allowed to the Cubans delegation to understand the Quebec social economy approach, including collaborative practice between actors of the social economy and public authorities, in order to encourage economic development model focused on people and communities.

Exchanges were much appreciated by both the Cuban and Canadian and further development are being explored.

### France-Quebec

In early November, a delegation of Quebec social economy enterprises and union representatives visited the Rhône-Alpes region in France, in order to exchange information on the public policy in favor of the social economy with French social and solidarity economy enterprises and public administration stakeholders.

The delegation's interests are centered around three themes; cultural SSE, SSE financial engineering including employee savings and the buyout of enterprises by employees.

## New Experience Briefs of co-construction of public policies in favour of SSE

To share innovative initiatives of government-civil society partnerships for the development of the SSE, RELIESS has produced new experience briefs.

Quebec experiences, [Local development and the social economy in urban Quebec – the Community Development Economic Corporations \(CDECs\) model](#);

[Local development and the social economy in rural Quebec – the National Rural Policy](#);

A model of [co-construction of social finance in Quebec](#).

An Argentina experience; the encouraging Worker Cooperative through the [modification of National law on Collective Proceedings and Bankruptcy \(available in French and Spanish only\)](#).



## National Case Studies In Progress

New national case studies on public policy in favor of SSE, similar to the six studies produced for the [FIESS](#), are currently in production. Local practitioners and researchers in Burkina Faso, Cuba, South Korea, Ecuador and Nepal are currently collecting information that will be used to prepare these studies which should be published in the spring. Watch for our next newsletter to find out more!

## Overview of News From Five Continents Published on the RELIESS

### ASIA

#### **INCREASED INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN AUSTRALIA**

Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds (SEDIF) are an Australian Government initiative to improve access to finance and support for social enterprises to help them grow their business, and by doing so, increase the impact of their work in their communities. By establishing SEDIF, the government is also seeking to catalyse the development of the broader social impact investment market in Australia.

[Read more](#)

### LATINE AMERICA

#### **NEW LAWS FOR CO-OPERATIVES IN BRAZIL AND CUBA**

Two countries in the Americas region have passed legislation to allow co-operatives to prosper without restrictions. Cuba has set aside USD100 million to help fund co-operatives, while Brazil has passed a law to support the growth of worker co-operatives.

[Read more](#)

#### **THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION AND THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES OF PERU SIGN AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**

The Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) and the National Confederation of Cooperatives of Peru (CONFENACOOOP) signed a Framework Agreement on Interagency Cooperation to coordinate joint initiatives in order to consolidate and strengthen the cooperative sector nationwide.

[Read more](#)





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## NORTH AMERICA

### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES WORKER COOPERATIVES AS SMALL BUSINESSES

Six worker cooperatives in New England have been the first to benefit from a new policy of the Small Business Administration to recognize worker cooperatives as small businesses.

[Read more](#)

## EUROPE-NORTH AMERICA

### THE FRENCH AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS SIGN A DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION IN FAVOUR OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

On October 8th, the Quebec and French governments signed a declaration of intent on cooperation between the two countries in favour of the social and solidarity economy. The agreement was signed within the framework of the [International Summit of Cooperatives](#), which was held in Quebec City from 8 to 11 October 2012, which brought together more than 2,800 participants in the social solidarity economy from 91 countries.

[Read more](#)

## EUROPE

### £10M SOCIAL INCUBATOR FUND LAUNCHED IN THE UK

Start-up social ventures in the UK will now be able to access intensive support through the new £10m Social Incubator Fund launched by UK Minister for Civil Society Nick Hurd.

[Read more](#)

### GRECE THIRD SECTOR RESPONSES

With the Greek public sector unable to provide sufficient aid to those suffering from the economic crisis, third sector initiatives are looking to fill the gap with new models of social entrepreneurship.

[Read more](#)

## AFRICA

### A NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR MOROCCAN COOPERATIVES

The quick expansion of cooperatives in Morocco has led the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance to propose a new legal framework to restate the role of cooperatives in the economy. This project of law is crucial because it revises a number of legal regulations of Moroccan cooperatives.

[Read more](#)