

EDITORIAL

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We are pleased to present this issue of the Journal of World Economy, which is dedicated to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and the socio-ecological transition. We want to thank the editorial team for their determined commitment, allowing researchers who work in this important and growing field of study to present their latest contributions.

We especially want to congratulate Manuela A. De Paz, who was director for 25 years (1999-2023), as well as the former editorial team and associate editor, who have promoted, developed and consolidated the Journal of World Economy, placing it in the main national and international indices.

The special section of this issue consists of 11 articles and 1 bibliographic review, which show how the social economy, and especially cooperativism, as its most representative formula, can be configured as a method to explore when implementing fair and equitable socio-ecological transition processes.

These contributions, as demonstrated by the research presented, highlight, on the one hand, the important synergies established between the characterisation of the SSE and the socioecological transition processes, as well as the potential that the SSE itself has by highlighting the functions specific sectors must play in these transitions.

In this sense, the first section of the issue includes contributions that demonstrate the theoretical and conceptual aspects of this synergistic effect between the SSE and the socioecological transition processes. Subsequently, several contributions are included that reflect on the role that public policies can play in the implementation of socioecological transition processes by promoting the SSE. Lastly, are those papers that show how the SSE allows us to value the real function that certain sectors (care, financial, cultural and agri-food) should play to ensure that these socio-ecological transition processes are truly equitable, fair and sustainable over time. The issue concludes with a book review that deals with how the SSE can contribute to valuing and enriching the culture sector.

Thus, in the first article, Lidia Valiente, Carmen Guzmán and Francisco J. Santos examine how social innovation within cooperatives can significantly contribute to socioecological transformation. Through case studies in various cooperatives, they demonstrate that these entities are capable of modifying

dominant systems through innovations that promote social justice and environmental sustainability.

For his part, Ekhi Atutxa Ordeñana leads us to explore the convergence between the principles of the SSE and post-growth. Their proposal for a “Transformation Compass” emerges as a key tool to guide SSE initiatives as they transition to a post-growth economy. This compass helps align resources, customise transformation paths, and promote adaptive governance and collaboration in eco-social transitions.

Reinalina Chavarri and Rafael Morales-Sánchez present an interesting analysis on how biomimetics can serve as a methodology for the SSE to lead a just socioecological transition. Their studies suggest that SSE, with its principles of solidarity, cooperation and equity, is an alternative growth model that can greatly benefit from nature-inspired solutions. Biomimetics demonstrates that it is possible to generate sustainable, inclusive and equitable structures.

From the Andean region, Asier Arcos-Alonso and his team offer a unique perspective on ecosocial transitions. To do this, they use automatic lexical analysis, identifying cultural dimensions and values that acquire prominence in non-Western contexts, highlighting the importance of the ancestral worldview and the fight against extractivism and neocolonialism. These elements, often absent in discourses from the Global North, are fundamental to a more holistic understanding of ecosocial transitions.

With the work of Belén Catalã Estada, Teresa Savall Morera and Rafael Chaves Ávila begins the block of contributions that reflect on the role of public policies in the development of the SSE and socioecological transition processes. This work discusses the institutionalisation of public social economy policies in Spain, positioning the country as a model of effective practices. Their analysis shows how Spain has emerged as a leader in this area, achieving a successful transition from socio-cognitive institutionalisation to political institutionalisation. This example can serve as a guide for other countries seeking to strengthen their social economy sector.

Jorge Gutiérrez-Goiria and his co-authors compare eco-innovation in cooperatives and industrial companies in the Basque Country, demonstrating how exports have a positive effect on eco-innovation and are driven by future regulations and market demand. They highlight the need for political support to promote eco-innovation in cooperatives.

Additionally, Sofia Arana investigates how fiscal policies related to food donation can promote the circular economy and strengthen social economy entities. Her work highlights the importance of systematising new fiscal measures and the crucial role of public administration in leading these initiatives to generate a significant impact.

The last section begins with the work of M. Pérez-Suárez and I. Sánchez-Torné, in which we reflect on the potential that the SSE presents by highlighting the true contributions that certain sectors can make to a fair and socio-ecological transition. equitable. This article analyses the resilience of cooperatives in generating employment during economic and health crises in Spain. To do this,

it uses Shift-share analysis and quadratic regression, concluding that cooperatives have demonstrated a notable capacity to stabilise employment in difficult times, although the trend is not uniformly countercyclical. The crucial role of cooperatives in promoting regional prosperity and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8 is highlighted.

Francisco Rincón Roldán, Charo Gómez-Álvarez and Rafael Morales-Sánchez delve into the fundamental role that ethical and supportive finance plays, using the case of *Fiare Banca Ética*, in financing a transition towards a fairer and sustainable system. They recognise that, although ethical finance is crucial, it is not the only necessary tool, also highlighting the importance of education and the role of the public sector.

Raquel Puentes-Poyatos and her co-authors study how companies in the olive oil sector in Spain communicate their corporate social responsibility (CSR) online. They find that communication focuses mainly on food safety and is influenced by factors such as commercial orientation towards the online market and the availability of interactivity channels with stakeholders. This analysis highlights the importance of transparency and interaction in sustainability communication.

Finally, Isabel Brito Cabeza and Blanca Miedes-Ugarte address the possibilities and limits of the SSE in the transformation of the care system. Using a methodology that combines collaborative workshops with interviews, their study reveals that the SSE can revalue unpaid care work and improve working conditions in this field, dominated by women, many of them immigrants. Their work highlights the transformative potential of SSE to ensure the sustainability of human life through better management and assessment of care.

Finally, the edition ends with a brief review by Carmen Guzmán of the book “Social Innovation, Social Enterprises and the Cultural Economy: Cultural and Artistic Social Enterprises in Practice”, written by Rocío Nogales Muriel.

We believe that this issue of the magazine offers a rich variety of analyses and perspectives on the Social and Solidarity Economy and how it can contribute to a just and sustainable socio-ecological transition. We hope that all these contributions inspire research, policies and practices to continue exploring and supporting the necessary transformations through new approaches, proposals and projects that deepen learning, generating the innovation and momentum necessary to keep advancing in the construction of a more liveable world for everyone.

Blanca Miedes-Ugarte.  
David Flores-Ruiz.