



Pilot Draft

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Basic training module for organisations
affiliated to StreetNet International

Objectives of this training module

StreetNet International was launched in November 2002 in order to promote and protect the rights of street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers around the world. The immediate tasks of defending these rights are clear, as informal traders are constantly harassed by national governments, municipal authorities and other forces on a daily basis. However, moving beyond the defensive battles to developing a longer-term vision of the political economy we seek to work towards, took longer to develop. The Third StreetNet International Congress, held in Benin in August 2010, spelled out a vision of the political economy by adopting a Resolution on the Social Solidarity Economy.

However, the concept of the Social Solidarity Economy has many variations. It is called by different names in different situations, and within the social solidarity economy paradigm there are different political approaches. Having taken the first step by adopting the Resolution, StreetNet now needs to develop its approach based on the reality faced by its members on the ground, and the alternative world they aspire to live and work in.

This training module is one step in building the awareness and understanding of the different approaches and possibilities that exist in developing the social solidarity economy. As more and more StreetNet affiliates develop and consolidate their understanding of the social solidarity economy we seek to establish and strengthen, we hope to develop a clearer shared vision between the different affiliates of StreetNet International on the social solidarity economy that we aspire to.

The training module aims to:

1. Further our understanding of the social solidarity economy and its main elements.
2. Deepen our understanding of key debates and perspectives around the social solidarity economy.
3. Enhance our understanding of how Decent Work conditions could be achieved by workers in the informal economy in the context of the social solidarity economy.
4. Explore how best to promote the organisation and representation of workers in the informal economy through economic transformation to the social solidarity economy.
5. Begin to develop appropriate skills and expertise for the establishment of social solidarity economy initiatives.
6. Explore the various roles in developing and supporting strategies and approaches for the future.

Notes for educators using this module

This training module is a guide for worker educators to use in training on the social solidarity economy.

Target Group

The module assumes that its primary users are street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers who are members of organisations affiliated to StreetNet International, as well as organisers and StreetNet staff members. It is not assumed that the reader has formal training in worker education, and the manual includes guidance notes throughout.

Methodology

The module has been developed on the basis of participatory activity guides. These guides are structured into two parts in most instances:

- a) The **actual activity**: This is the activity to be engaged by participants. It includes the activity aims, a suggested timing for the activity and the task/s that need to be undertaken. Activities should be reproduced and distributed to participants for use in a training session.
- b) **Further reading/reference materials**: These are supplementary handouts or suggested readings on which the relevant activity is based. They could be used for preparing your own inputs and should also be reproduced and handed out to participants in advance of the sessions.

How to use this manual

The manual has been designed for you to 'dip in and out of' and can be used in many ways, depending on the time available and your target group. You can use the module in a way that best suits your training objectives and the participants' needs.

Each activity is designed in a way that would allow it to 'stand alone'.

Over to you.

Good luck!

Module activities

| Activity | Timing | |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Getting to know everyone | 1 hour | |
| 2. StreetNet's vision of the SSE | 2½ hours | |
| 3. SSE initiatives around the world | ITC Reader – Chapter 1 | 3 hours |
| | ITC Reader – Chapter 2 | 3 hours |
| | ITC Reader – Chapter 3 | 3 hours |
| | ITC Reader – Chapter 4 | 3 hours |
| | ITC Reader – Chapter 5 | 3 hours |
| | ITC Reader - overview | 3 hours |
| 4. Can the SSE transform the global economy? | 3½ hours | |
| 5. StreetNet International resolution on the SSE – a global implementation programme | 3½ hours | |
| 6. Evaluation | 1 hour | |

Activity 1: Getting to know everyone

1 hour

Aims To help us to

- Create an open and relaxed environment for the time to be spent together
- Get to everyone else present
- Agree the aims and outcomes for this training

Task: A good start to any training is taking the time to get to know everyone present. This is important in creating an open and constructive learning environment.

In this activity we will all get a chance to introduce ourselves, our organisation/s, and the aims and programme/s we will be working with. This session will also allow us to being some very initial conversations about the social solidarity economy.

In **plenary** please introduce yourself by 'answering' the headings below:

1. Your name
2. Where you live and work
3. A brief history of your involvement in your organisation
4. Your position within your organisation
5. Your expectations from and concerns for this training

Try not to spend more than 5 – 7 minutes introducing yourself.

At the end of this activity the facilitator will draw together your experiences and varying levels of organisational engagement before taking you through the aims and programme and making the linkages to the particular expectations and concerns that you have raised.

Activity 2: StreetNet's vision of the social solidarity economy

2 hours 30 minutes

Aims To help us to

- become familiar with the Resolution on the Social Solidarity Economy passed at the Third StreetNet International Congress in Benin in August 2010
- identify ways in which our own organisations are already implementing this Resolution
- think about new ways in which our organisations can implement this Resolution

Task: StreetNet International adopted a vision of the kind of political economy we would like to work towards by adopting a Resolution on the Social Solidarity Economy at the Third International Congress in Benin in August 2010.

In this activity we will be provided with an opportunity to understand StreetNet's concept of the Social Solidarity Economy and begin thinking about what is needed to promote the social solidarity economy.

Read aloud the StreetNet Resolution on the Social Solidarity Economy in **small groups**. Then answer the following questions.

Please elect somebody to report back in plenary.

1. Are there any activities which your organisation is already doing which seem to be in compliance with this Resolution? Describe these activities on a flip-chart.
2. Are there other activities which you can think of which your organisation could start doing in compliance with this Resolution?

You have one hour for the small group discussion.

Following this, the facilitator will draw together your responses and lead a discussion on StreetNet affiliates implementing this Congress Resolution on the Social Solidarity Economy.



Further reading

StreetNet International resolution on Social Solidarity Economy

Activity 3: Social solidarity economy initiatives around the world

6 sessions of 3 hours each

Aims To help us to

- Understand different elements of social solidarity economy
- Develop an idea of the wide-ranging social solidarity economy initiatives which exist internationally
- Analyse the differences between existing social solidarity economy initiatives
- Analyse what it takes for social solidarity economy initiatives to succeed

Task: The ILO (International Labour Organisation) has an International Training Centre (ITC) in Turin, Italy, which prepared a Reader on the social solidarity economy in an attempt to build a common understanding. The Reader contains many case studies and examples of social solidarity economy initiatives in different countries all around the world.

This activity consists of six separate sessions, where we will discuss each chapter of the ITC Reader on the social solidarity economy, and finally one discussion about the whole ITC Reader, **in groups**:

Please elect someone to report back to plenary:

Chapter 1 – Understanding the Social and solidarity economy

1. How many different kinds of organisations do we find in the social solidarity economy?
2. How many different terms are used to talk about the social solidarity economy?
3. Do you agree with what this chapter says about the social solidarity economy and the informal economy?
4. What is meant by SSEOs? What are your observations about the SSEOs which are written about in this chapter?

Chapter 2 – Governance and management of SSEOs

1. How many different kinds of governance and management have been identified in the social solidarity economy?
2. What are the main challenges facing the social solidarity economy that have been identified in this chapter?
3. How do the different kinds of SSEOs resolve these different challenges?
4. What are your observations about the SSEOs which are written about in this chapter?

Chapter 3 – Policy framework for developing the social solidarity economy

1. What are the public policy issues which would make an initiative part of the social solidarity economy?
2. Which of the countries or regions which you have read about in this chapter seem to have legal and public policy frameworks which facilitate the development of the social solidarity economy? Why?
3. What do you think the government of your country need to do to develop a more

suitable legal and public policy framework for the social solidarity economy?

4. What are your observations about the SSEOs which are written about in this chapter?

Chapter 4 – Building the social solidarity economy through partnerships and networking

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of building networks in the SSE (social solidarity economy)?

2. What kinds of stakeholders have been identified in this chapter for networking in the social solidarity economy? What criteria would you use in selecting networking partners from among these stakeholders?

3. How would you identify a successful or effective SSE network? How would you define an unsuccessful or ineffective SSE network?

4. What are your observations about the SSEOs which are written about in this chapter?

Chapter 5 – Contributions of the social solidarity economy to the ILO Decent Work Agenda

1. How can SSEOs contribute to the Decent Work pillar of labour rights, especially for workers in the informal economy?

2. How can SSEOs contribute to the Decent Work pillar of employment and income security, especially for workers in the informal economy?

3. How can SSEOs contribute to the Decent Work pillar of social protection, especially for workers in the informal economy?

4. How can SSEOs contribute to the Decent Work pillar of social dialogue and the right to representation, especially for workers in the informal economy?

5. What are your observations about the SSEOs which are written about in this chapter?

Whole ITC Reader – Final discussion

1. Which of the SSEOs written about in all the chapters of this Reader do you think are the best social solidarity economy initiatives? Why?

2. How would you analyse the differences between different kinds of SSEOs that you read about in the different chapters of the Reader?

3. What would you say are the main factors needed for successful and effective social solidarity economy activities and initiatives?

4. What can StreetNet International and the affiliates of StreetNet do to develop successful and effective social solidarity economy activities and initiatives?



Further reading

**ILO Reader 2010 – Social and solidarity economy:
building a common understanding**

Activity 4: Can the social solidarity economy transform the global economy?

3 hours 30 minutes

Aims To help us to

- Reflect on the relationship between the social solidarity economy and economic transformation

- Reflect on some of the political differences of approach regarding the social solidarity economy

- Develop the elements of a StreetNet approach based on the common issues facing workers in the informal economy, particularly the sector of street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers

Tasks: StreetNet's Nicaraguan affiliate CTCP-FNT have developed a Manifesto for economic transformation through the organisation of own-account workers into the social solidarity economy. In this activity we analyse the approach reflected in the Manifesto of CTCP-FNT, and compare it with other approaches we may be aware of.

The facilitator will provide a **brief input** on the CTCP-FNT Manifesto.

While listening to the input, write down your key observations and concerns, before answering the following questions **in groups**:

Please elect someone to report back to plenary.

1. Did you agree with the approach of the CTCP-FNT Manifesto? Why? If not, what did you not agree with?
2. What other different approach/es are you aware of, and how are these different to the CTCP-FNT Manifesto approach? Please share with the rest of your group.
3. What are the common elements in these different approaches, that we should adopt in a StreetNet International approach on the social solidarity economy?

You have two hours for the group discussion.

Prepare to share your responses in plenary, following which the facilitator will draw together your suggestions.



Further reading

**FIRST MANIFESTO OF SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS
CTCP-FNT Nicaragua**

Activity 5: StreetNet International resolution on the social solidarity economy – a global implementation programme

3 hours 30 minutes

Aims To help us to

- Reflect on the social solidarity economy initiatives already in existence through the affiliates of StreetNet International
- Establish how we might monitor developments in the future, and give each other support
- Devise a strategy to improve the processes we are involved in, and to develop initiatives for activities we have not previously thought about implementing

Task: This training has provided us with the opportunity to think through the issues and challenges involved in developing the social solidarity economy, and what would be needed to advance the implementation of effective strategies in different countries as well as an effective global strategy as an organisation.

How do we make sure that our work does not end here?

This activity is designed to help up think through where we go next.

Working in **small groups** with others from the same organisation, complete the following:

1. Re-look at the challenges and various lessons which have emerged through this training. As a group, debate and agree on not more than 5 key challenges that need to be addressed in the next period. List them on chart paper.
2. Each member of the group should now list (on cards) practical steps they personally intend to take in order to tackle each ofn the challenges agreed. Please be realistic!
3. Pin the cards up on a board. Each person then constructs points into a 'priorities for implementation plan' and writes it up on regular A4 paper.
4. Read through your plan again and see what you have left out. Fill in what you have left out and re-write it a second time on a flip-chart to present to the plenary.
5. Share your strategy with the plenary for collective feedback and supportive criticism.

You have two hours in which to develop your strategy.

You are asked to take careful notes of the feedback received, which you should take back to your region/office to put into practice.

Activity 6: Evaluation

1 hour

Aims To help us to:

- Assess the usefulness of this training in terms of approach, method and content

- Reflect on how we have progressed towards an understanding, strategy and approach on the social solidarity economy

- Offer suggestions for improvements for similar future training on the social solidarity economy

Task: No training is complete without a proper evaluation and feedback from participants. This will support future similar training and assist in improving on the materials and approach developed.

In this session we will have an opportunity to evaluate the training and talk about future training of this nature.

Working with the people **sitting immediately around you**, prepare to share your answers to the following questions.

Please elect someone to report back to plenary.

1. Do you feel that useful and measurable progress has been made towards your understanding of the social solidarity economy? Please explain.
2. Do you feel confident and energised to take forward an approach in your organisation for developing social solidarity economy initiatives?
3. Do you have any feedback to offer on:
4. What support would you require (and from whom) in the future?
5. Give suggestions on how this workshop could be improved if facilitated for other organisations in the future?

You have 30 minutes for your discussion.

The session will end with feedback in plenary.