

Potential and Limits of Social and Solidarity Economy

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*Survival Strategies and Public Policy Making:
The contribution of Social and Solidarity
Economy to Emancipatory Policies in latin
America and Brazil*

Session 4. SSE, Public Policy and the Law

Aims:

- Discussion on public policies (PP) for SSE;
- Pointing out its main instruments trends and limits;
- Discussion of the relationship between these policies and “transverse” and “emancipatory” public actions;
- Some considerations about SSE in Brazil and Latin America;
- Connection between SSE, cash transfer programmes and “emancipation”: the Brazilian case of “*Plano Brasil sem Miséria*”

Background


- SSE: difficulties and contradictions – definition; conceptualisation; delimitation of its activities / organisations; measuring;
- Voluntary, philanthropic, non-monetary, non-profit, sector of social interest, third sector, NGO, solidarity economy, popular economy...

SSE

- Phenomenon more and more economic, social and political visibility;
- Impacting on PP planning (subjects, organisations, entities – recognition, institutionalization and strengthen projects and actions);

1. Public Policies for SSE

Programmes and actions of the public sector to promote these as choices of work, income, social and democratic participation, better quality of life...



1. 1 Trends and Instruments

Emergence of SSE PP:

- New model of relationship between government action and civil society;
- “policy in progress”: “experimental”;
- Challenges: institutional fragility / vulnerability

1.2 Trends and Instruments

Some instruments: Heterogeneous Actions

- Actions for professional qualification for informal segments;
- Conventional initiatives to disseminate microcredit;
- Promotion of popular cooperatives incubation;
- Support for the organization of associativism;
- Establishment of SSE public centres;
- Definition of specific and transverse programmes;
- Definition of legal and regulatory frameworks;
- Definition of governmental structures at different levels;
- Constitution of logistic and infrastructure;

1.2 Trends and Instruments

A systematized view:

4 major categories for SSE PP:

1. **Territorial Policy:** supporting local communities
2. **Generic tools for development:** investment tools, adequate markets, research, management practices and training
3. **Sectoral Policies:** environment, housing, new technologies, tourism, culture
4. **Policies in favour of target populations:** integrating: youth, disabled, recent imigrations

1.3 Constructed from bottom up

- “Co-production”: citizens’ collective action
- Not seen as a “public construction” but “as the result of processes of interactions between associative initiatives and public policies” (Laville, 2006:19) – “reciprocal interactions from bottom-up”;
- Territorial Development;

1.4 Transverse actions

- SSE and transverse characteristic: mobilizes different areas of public action;

Economic: generation of job and income;

Social: improvement of sociability conditions, strengthening of territorial ties;

Political: creation of public spaces for problem discussion and solving;

SSE mobilize **Cultural** and **Environmental** dimension;

- Problem: lack of articulation between government agencies at different levels !

1.5 Possibilities of “emancipation”?

- Potential for the emancipation of marginalized sectors based on the SSE;
- Ex. Programmes of conditional cash transfer to alleviate poverty and break its intergenerational circle – *Bolsa Família* (Brazil);
- “Exit doors”;

2. Plano Brasil sem Miséria [Brazil without Misery]

According to the official site, the objective of the Plan is to combine cash transfers, access to public services in the areas of education, health, social assistance, sanitation and electricity supply and integration into working life. With a range of actions involving the creation of new programmes and the broadening of existing initiatives, in partnership with states, municipalities, public and private companies and civil society organizations, the federal government seeks to include the poorest sections of the population in the opportunities generated by Brazilian economic growth

<http://www.brasilsemmiseria.gov.br>



PLANO
**BRASIL
SEM
MISÉRIA**



2.1 SSE in Latin-america

Argentina;

Bolivia;

Colombia;

Equador;

Mexico;

Etc

3. SSE: advances, limits, weaknesses, conflicts y prospects

Economic terms: access to markets, credit, technology, training, capital etc;

Political terms:

- Policies don't have a high degree of institutionalization and continuity;
- Internal conflicts (political disputes) in the structure of government and in different areas (municipal, state and federal);
- Financial resources for programs are not enough for the size of the desired objectives;
- Lack of mechanisms and tools for the evaluation of policies, projects and actions of the SSE

THANK YOU

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<http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org/en/sse-academy-collective-brain>