



THE FUTURE  
OF SOCIAL  
& SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY  
CONFERENCE

JUNE  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
2022

8AM—  
6:30PM

GOLDEN TULIP  
EL MECHTEL HOTEL TUNIS



# The Future of Social and Solidarity Economy Conference

Within the framework of the **MedRiSSE** project's launching conference and the dissemination of the **MedUP** project, the **Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship** is organizing The Future of Social and Solidarity Economy Conference with the aim to bring together international and local, social and solidarity economy actors, to reflect on the sector's collective impact and create a vision for the future.

*The Future of Social and Solidarity Economy Conference is organized in partnership with **Friedrich-Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz, and Oxfam.***





## OUTLINE

- **Get an overview of the conference!**
- **Take an in-depth look at the programme!**
- **Meet the speakers!**
- **Know more about the projects!**
- **Know more about the organizations!**
- **Explore Studies' Key Findings!**



## **Rethinking Social Problems: Social and Solidarity Economy's Genesis**

The social and solidarity sector has known a boom in the last 10 years both in Tunisia and internationally. Creating solutions around social problems has gradually become possible in a structured way that doesn't depend on individual efforts but that can involve communities and institutions.

At a local level, the political context of the 2011 revolution has led to the emergence of many players, coming together with the aim to tackle social, environmental, and cultural challenges, through small-scale initiatives.

Organizations were then created and programs have been designed to create and support the evolving social and solidarity sector. Diverse types of structures have been established to reinforce local ecosystems all around the country and a ripple effect has echoed all over to replicate initiatives that can make impactful changes a reality. The local synergies have laid the foundation for fruitful collaborations on the regional level. Local ecosystems of different countries came together to collaborate on regional projects, for a wider impact and sustainable change.

Change is a big word that goes beyond extravagant promises. It involves criticizing reality and reflecting on collective learnings that can help people,



social actors, ecosystems, communities, and countries to develop. Thus, we invite you to be an active participant in this reflection!

## **Reflecting on the Past, Capitalizing on Change, and Envisioning the Future**

The Future of Social and Solidarity Economy Conference seeks to offer a space to reflect on the sector's achievements in the last decade and to envision practices and approaches that can reinforce the social innovation ecosystems both nationally and internationally.

## **Reflecting on the Past, Capitalizing on Change, and Envisioning the Future**

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Within this framework, Tunisian social and solidarity economy players will come together to identify the key learnings and best practices, while imagining a roadmap for where we want to go as social innovators, social entrepreneurs, and change-makers.

The Future of Social and Solidarity Economy Conference is an open invitation to local partners to meet and connect, with the aim of creating a collaborative environment that best supports the local ecosystem. In addition to local attendees, the conference will welcome international partners coming from Jordan, Palestine, Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

Adding to the panels and networking sessions, the conference's program will also host presentations of projects' key findings and open horizons for new ones such as:

- **'MedUP, Promoting Social Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean Area'**, co-funded by the European Union.
- **'MedRiSSE, Replicable Innovations of SSE in the Provision of Services & Creation of Decent Jobs in the Post Covid-19 Crisis Recovery'**, co-funded by ENI CBC MED.



08.00 - 09.00

## Registration // MedRiSSE Pop-Up Stations

Participants will be invited to register for the event and can walk through the MedRiSSE Pop-up stations where they can learn about the projects that MedRiSSE seeks to capitalize on which are MoreThanAJob, MedTOWN, RUWOMED, MedUP!, and IESS.

09.00 - 09.30

## Opening Session: Social Impact Beyond Trends!

**Conference Host and Moderator:** Ms. Leila Ben Gacem

**Speakers:** Mr. Fethi Ben Mimoun (Director of the Unit in Charge of Cross-Border Cooperation at the Ministry of Economy and Planning), Mr. Alexander Rieper (Head of Office in Tunisia and Libya at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation ), Ms. Sabrine Chennaoui (Mon Sapo), Mr. Nicolas Planchenault (Le Lemon Tour), Mr. Hichem Mnasser (Pensée Nationale Libre).



During this session, the conference will be inaugurated by Mr. Fethi Ben Mimoun, Director of the Unit in Charge of Cross-Border Cooperation at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, along with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a long-term partner of the Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship (TCSE), and the national authority for ENI CBC MED cooperation, the programme that the Medrisse project is part of and that TCSE will be implementing in Tunisia. In addition, the participants will get a glimpse of the inspiring stories of social entrepreneurs, leading innovative and sustainable businesses.

09.30 - 10.30

### **Panel Discussion: Our collective Journey!**

*Striving for a more collaborative SSE ecosystem: In-depth knowledge, key findings, and recommendations*

**Moderator:** Ms. Leila Ben Gacem

**Speakers:** Ms. Asma Mansour (Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship), Mr. José María Ruibérriz (Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz), Mr. Mohamed Daly Sfia (Expert, Oxfam)



Conference participants will be invited to take part in a panel discussion on the collective experience of Mediterranean and Tunisian ecosystem actors. The Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship (TCSE) and its partners; Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz (ACPP) and Oxfam will present studies on the social and solidarity economy, highlighting the findings and related recommendations for a stronger and more inclusive ecosystem for SSE.

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***Moderator:*** Ms. Leila Ben Gacem

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10.30 - 11.00

### **Q&A Session**

The panel will be followed by a Q&A session.

11.00 - 11.30

### **Coffee Break**

Participants can enjoy the morning coffee break while networking!



11.30 - 13.00

## **Workshop : Our collective learnings!, Facilitated by Future Islands**

### ***Coproduction of public policies, access to finance, and SSE sector development***

This workshop will follow a practical approach, where participants will be invited to join workshops and dig deeper around themes such as access to finance for social entrepreneurs, the co-production of public policies and the development of the social and solidarity economy sector. The workshop will start with an ice breaking exercise to get the room's energy moving. Participants will afterwards be guided to their assigned tables where they will be part of an hour-long in depth conversation about the subject of their choice and they will contribute to an expert lead exchange that seeks to set the tone for a better future for the SSE sector. In order to do so, the workshops will focus on these key issues:

- ***The access to finance workshop*** will vulgarize financial products and question the existing offer by financial institutions in order to adapt it to the needs of social entrepreneurs. *Facilitators: Mohamed Daly Sfia, Ahmed Ben Nejma, Oumaima Jegham.*



- ***The benchmarking co-production workshop*** will investigate different experiences in the Mediterranean region on co-producing social services. *Facilitator: Zied Boussem.*
- ***The public policy workshop*** will guide participants into the concrete steps to establish a successful participatory process in coproducing policies, in the Tunisian context. *Facilitator: Saber Louhichi.*
- ***The Social and solidarity economy development workshop*** will question the current needs of social entrepreneurs and how actors can collaborate more effectively in order to meet these needs. *Facilitator: Pedro Telleria.*

13.00- 14.30

### Lunch Break

Participants are welcome to take a break, mingle and have some lunch!

14.30 – 18.00

### **Common vision for the Future: Creating Future Visions for the SSE, Facilitated by New Silk Roads**

*Envisioning the future that we want to thrive in.*



This workshop seeks to investigate the futures that participants want to live in. They will come together to boldly imagine the future of the social economy in the Mediterranean region. Over two working sessions, a diverse array of social economy actors (international partners, local partners, entrepreneurs, potential entrepreneurs, changemakers, etc) will work in small groups to articulate their preferred future visions as rooted in local values, needs, and priorities. Using examples from history, art, literature and science, this session will provide participants with the initial tools and mindset of a “futures thinker.” Through identifying assumptions about the future, and the narratives which we create around these assumptions, the facilitators will work with participants to articulate preferred futures and imagine beyond futures thinking tropes, such as utopia, dystopia, or techno-optimism. This session will also present strategies for how participants may think more creatively and optimistically about their roles in constructing the future, starting now in the present.

18.00 – 18.30

### **Closing session**

**Moderator:** Ms. Leila Ben Gacem

**Speakers:** Ms. Georgia Karavangeli (*Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz*), Mr. Lotfi Ben Aissa, (*Municipality of Tunis*)

The closing session will address the foundations of the conference and open horizons for the future of the SEE sector based on the actors' input during the workshops.



Meet the speakers!

*Meet the conference moderator and host:*



Ms. **Leila Ben-Gacem** is a social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow; founder of Blue Fish, a consultancy that designs and implements projects that improve the socio-economic dynamics of heritage and culture to improve their resilience. Leila also founded Dar el Harka, a creative industry hub; Dar Ben Gacem, a Boutique Hotel and cultural catalyst in the medina of Tunis. Leila is founder and president of Mdinti, Medina's economic interest group, and member of the organization committee of UltraMirage El Djerid. Leila is an elected city council member in her native town of Beni-Khalled. Before switching careers, Leila held various positions at multinational corporations and has a BS in Biomedical Engineering.



Meet the speakers!

***Meet the speakers and facilitators:***



**Mr. Ahmed Ben Nejma** is the economic justice program's officer at Oxfam in Tunisia. Oxfam is a global movement working to end the injustice of poverty. Oxfam in Tunisia's Economic Justice Program aims to promote an enabling environment providing access to decent economic opportunities for youth and women.



**Mr. Alexander Rieper** studied Oriental Studies in Bamberg, with Arabic and Persian as the main languages. After completing his studies, he first worked at the Nah- und Mittelostverein (NUMOV), first as a regional consultant and later as head of regional groups. In the fall of 2011, he joined the Foundation and headed the regional office in Munich until 2018 and the local office in Tunis until present.



## Meet the speakers!



Ms. **Asma Mansour**, Chairwoman and Cofounder of The Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship (TCSE). The first organization of its kind in North Africa, TCSE does cross-sectoral work to create a supportive environment for young people to take solving social problems into their own hands. Asma and her team offer a wide range of services to develop social entrepreneurship in Tunisia; their model has been replicated in Morocco and Algeria.



Mr. **Evert Faber van der Meulen**, Institutional fundraiser and facilitator. He contributes to New Silk Roads' futures thinking programs by facilitating processes to spark collective imagination, drawing from Islamic history, German philosophy, Catholic mysticism, and rugby. He also specializes in designing and facilitating training in fundraising, theory of change, and impact evaluations and has also facilitated future thinking training in Tunisia. Evert was previously a lecturer at Leiden University in the Netherlands



## Meet the speakers!



Mr. **Fethi Ben Mimoun**, Director of the Unit in charge of Cross-Border Cooperation at the Ministry of Economy and Planning.



Ms. **Fida Bel Haj Latief**, Management and innovation consultant (at Future Islands), an innovation enthusiast, and a great believer in research. She has facilitated several workshops /events based on participatory innovation methods such as Design Thinking, Lego serious play, Hackathons, etc. A firm believer that the future is collaborative.



Ms. **Georgia Karavangeli** is the Coordinator of SSE and Social Innovation Office at the Peace Cooperation Council (ACPP). Georgia has a strong academic background in international relations, economic development and regional development, and is an expert in European cooperation projects; coordinates multi-stakeholder projects in various countries. As a network and development consultant for the alternative economy, she has participated in various cooperation and research projects on the social and solidarity economy.



## Meet the speakers!



Mr. **Hichem Mnasser**, Social entrepreneur. Is an occasional geek who loves new technology, problem solving and handball. As the president and co-founder of Pensée Nationale Libre (PNL), a local NGO that works on youth digital inclusion through reassembling computers (Sociordi), offers digital facilitator training to volunteers and creates digital fabrication community spaces as well as robotics clubs for young people in schools and youth centers active in the ecosystem of social entrepreneurship, he led several awareness-raising workshops in his region.



Mr. **José Maria Ruibérriz** directs the area of Social Economy and Innovation at Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz (ACPP). He has more than 20 years of experience in international cooperation, during which time he has served as ACPP's Head of Mission in the Middle East and has coordinated cross-border projects in countries such as Portugal, Italy, Greece, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Tunisia. He has acquired extensive experience in community organization and public policy co-creation processes and has specialized his activity in the field of monetary and financial innovation and digitization in the public sector.



## Meet the speakers!



Ms. **Katie Bentivoglio**, manager at New Silk Roads. She has spent nearly a decade working at the intersections of program design, community building, and creative expression in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, including on several programs which support alternative future imaginings. She has previously facilitated futures thinking and strategic planning sessions for social entrepreneurs in Tunisia, Egypt, and Iraq. Katie has been living between Egypt and Tunisia since 2013.



Mr. **Mohamed Daly Sfia**, Economist. He is an economic expert in socio-economic development with 20 years of experience. Having led several missions of strategic studies, advice and training in the fields of employment, entrepreneurship, sustainable development and climate change.



## Meet the speakers!



Mr. **Nicolas Planchenault**, Social Entrepreneur. He is an engineer, a consultant and an entrepreneur, who works to bring positive changes to our societies. He co-founded the consulting company Kandeel in 2017, to advise both public and private sectors in France and Tunisia in mobility, energy and climate change. In 2018, he co-founded Le Lemon Tour, a start-up that aims at changing the way of moving and the ways to discover Tunisia. Nicolas is also facilitator, trainer and country coordinator of the Climate Fresk, a workshop to understand climate change.



Ms. **Oumaima Jegham** is the economic justice program's advocacy officer at Oxfam in Tunisia. Oxfam is a global movement working to end the injustice of poverty. Oxfam in Tunisia's Economic Justice Program aims to promote an enabling environment providing access to decent economic opportunities for youth and women.



## Meet the speakers!



Mr. **Lotfi Ben Aissa**, Doctor in humanities and social sciences. He is the former advisor of the National Union of Mutuels (UNAM), co-organizer of the Med ESS event in Tunis: “The Spring of Solidarity Commitment” (May 2013) and former administrator of the Med ESS Association (Paris). In addition, he has served as the scientific coordinator of the SSE organic bill in Tunisia, initiated by the UGTT and is a member of the SSE Commission of the Three-Year Development Plan (2023-2025) by the Ministry of Economy and Planning. He has worked on multiple publications devoted to SSE in Tunisia including co-writing a book entitled ‘To promote SSE’ (2020).



Mr. **Pedro Telleria**, Social sector specialist. Has twenty five years of experience in leadership positions in the Social Sector (Entrepreneurship, NGOs, International Organizations), in the Private Sector (Multinational Corporations, Family Business) and in the University (International Economics). His main areas of experience are Entrepreneurship, Program Management, Finance, Strategic Planning, and Organizational Development. He has a strong multicultural and multilingual background, and has a deep knowledge of business cultures of Europe, Middle East, and Latin America.



## Meet the speakers!



Mr. **Saber Louhichi**, founder and Manager of "Consulting for Multi-Party Democracy System CM-SOUTH DAKOTA ". He is an expert on collective change management and public policy reforms. Saber is a democratic system training consultant with several institutions and national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations particularly in public policies and citizen participation, youth participation, institutional support governance systems, skills development techniques, strategic communication, multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation.



Ms. **Sabrina Chennaoui**, CEO and co-founder of MONSAPO, an ecological cleaning products brand, based on circular economy and sustainable development. She is passionate about entrepreneurship, sustainability and empowering women in business. She is very Interested in Bio-circular economy, biomimicry and sustainable manufacturing.



Mr. **Zied Bousen**, Tunisian researcher and activist on governance, public policies and human rights. His research focuses on institutional and legal reforms in transitional contexts. He runs Pandora Consulting/Research a Tunisian research center on public policies and acts as Research Fellow for the Arab Reform Initiative for Tunisia and North Africa.



Know more about the projects!

**MedUP! is a 4-year project that aims to increase economic inclusiveness and employment in Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.**

The project's overall objective is to promote an enabling environment in the Southern Mediterranean partner countries for the development of the social entrepreneurship sector as a driver for inclusive growth and job creation.

Its specific objective is to increase economic inclusiveness and employment in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine where adequate policies on social entrepreneurship are in place, public-private dialogue and exchanges of practices are promoted and high-quality business development services are available and provided for social enterprises.

MedUp! has a total budget of €5.46 million, and promotes actions along three levels of intervention:

**At Macro Level:** The Action has promoted policy and advocacy initiatives and public-private dialogue to improve regulatory and institutional environments at country and cross-country levels.



Know more about the projects!

**At Meso level:** Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs) were supported, through capacity building programs and networking, with the final aim of improving the quality, innovativeness and outreach of their services targeting local SEs and building strategic alliances with other SESOs in the MENA region and in Europe.

**At Micro level:** Selected Social Enterprises were supported through financial and technical support and examples of successful social enterprises were disseminated at national, regional and EU level.



Promoting social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean Region



This project is co-funded by the European Union

Consortium Leader:



European Partners:



Southern Mediterranean Partners:



Associated Partners:





Know more about the projects!

**MEDRISSE is a 2-year project that aims to promote the co-production of social policies to fight poverty, inequality, social exclusion and environmental unsustainability in the Mediterranean through developing SSE innovations and a joint framework approach of co-production of social policies. It is implemented in Spain, Palestine, Italy, Jordan, Tunisia.**

The project will generate clear evidence and solutions to overcome existing identified barriers and provide public institutions, the donor community, SSE practitioners, local partners, and a multitude of other stakeholders with sustainable, low-cost and innovative capacities to deliver quality social services. Supporting the development of national, regional and local social economy ecosystems will be a major step in order to boost job creation and innovation, to foster social inclusion. In addition, the project will benefit 1,500 SSE practitioners , 250 researchers, 250 public sector entrepreneurs and policy makers, Decision-makers mainly in social policies.

The project is set to achieve:

- 1 Mediterranean Co-production Lab on social innovation,
- 5 policy briefs on social innovation to promote positive influence on policy makers,





Know more about the projects!

- 1 Mediterranean replication toolkit for the protection of economic and social rights,
- 1 cross-country analysis report of national mappings and studies on social innovation.





Know more about the organizers!



**The Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship (TCSE)** is a Tunisian local NGO that was established in 2012. It seeks to tackle the most pressing social and economic challenges in our society -unemployment and the huge development gap in the regions, among others – with the vision of making Social Entrepreneurship a pillar of the Tunisian economy, offering sustainable and innovative solutions to social entrepreneurs and society.

TCSE's mission is to create an ecosystem conducive to innovation and social entrepreneurship through an inclusive approach that expands to reach public institutions and policies, NGOs, entrepreneurs, innovators and young citizens.



**Oxfam** is a global movement of people, working together to end the injustice of poverty. Oxfam tackles the inequality that keeps people poor. It saves, protects and rebuilds lives when disaster strikes. Oxfam helps people build better lives for themselves, and for others by taking on issues like land rights, climate change and discrimination against women.





Know more about the organizers!



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN  
STIFTUNG** Für die Freiheit.

Tunisia & Libya

The **Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)** offers political education in Germany and abroad. With events and publications, the foundation helps people to become actively involved in political affairs. It supports talented young students with scholarships. Since 2007, the addition "for freedom" has become an established part of the foundation's name. FNF's headquarter is based in Potsdam, and it maintains offices throughout Germany and in over 60 countries around the world. The Foundation's work abroad began with the opening of an office in Tunisia in 1964.



**Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz (ACPP)** is an instrument, a meeting point for people who aspire to live in a world that bases its pillars on dignity, justice and equality and who seek to collectively contribute to it. The rules of the game are not neutral and ACPP 's work is part of the desire to change them from daily practice. ACPP is not neutral either, its work is aimed at achieving a more egalitarian society in which all people have the opportunity to live a decent life. International cooperation, action in schools, social intervention in neighborhoods and cities and citizen awareness are fundamental areas of support in this political advocacy work. **ACPP** defines itself as an independent, progressive and secular organization.





Know more about the organizers!



**Future Islands** is an Innovation and research Lab that aims to develop new and evolving approaches to create innovative solutions for complex problems to enable a sustainable society. They provide support to companies, public institutions, and non profit organizations in designing, deploying, and evaluating innovation programs.



**New Silk Roads** is an agency which provides its clients with the tools and guidance to do good that was founded in 2009. Our work is guided by the values of the silk roads of the past: trust, curiosity and diversity. Our clients include social enterprises, NGOs, artists, funders and investors.





Explore Studies' Key Findings!

**SCAN THE QR CODE USING YOUR PHONE CAMERA/APP!**



**Needs assessment and sector overviews studies, conducted within the framework of the RISE project.**



Explore Studies' Key Findings!



**Funding Mechanisms of Social Entrepreneurship in Tunisia.**



Explore Studies' Key Findings!



**Studies relative to the following projects:**

**MedTOWN:** Co-producing social policies with SSE actors to fight poverty, inequality and social exclusion

**RUWOMED:** Towards gender equity and social justice: Connecting women producers in the Mediterranean through fair-trade

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