

Public Policies Enabling the Social and Solidarity Economy in the City of Montréal

UNRISD Project. Promoting SSE through Public Policies:
Guidelines for Local Governments

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Context

Canadian cities are « creatures » of provincial governments with limited revenues and increasing responsibilities

- ▶ Provincial and federal interventions have been an essential in the development of the SSE social economy in Montréal and the source of most strategic public policy measures.
- ▶ Like other cities around the world, devolution of responsibility to city governments is on the rise, along with policy measures to increase their autonomy.
- ▶ ***Within this institutional context, the SSE in Montreal is rooted in social dialogue, co-construction and collaborative processes that have been key elements in the building of the Montréal SSE. Policy initiatives have responded to SSE collective action on the ground.***

An integrated ecosystemic approach

- ▶ The Montreal (and Quebec-wide) SSE is embedded in an ecosystemic» approach intervening in finance, technical support and accompaniment, training, research, knowledge transfer, citizen mobilisation, commercialisation
- ▶ SSE is also a « place based » comprehensive and integrated approach to local development, beyond the aggregate of its numerous collective enterprises
- ▶ Policy development has been consistently initiated by stakeholders based on needs and aspirations identified within communities leading to processes of co-construction within and with all levels of government
 - ▶ Horizontal: across divisions within levels of government
 - ▶ Vertical: municipal, provincial, federal (limited)

Major policy initiatives

- ▶ Derivative provincial measures impacting social economy at a municipal level:
- ▶ *Social Economy Act (2013) and 5 year action plan*
- ▶ *New juridical structures: social utility trusts*
- ▶ *Action plan on collective entrepreneurship*
- ▶ *Access to capital through investment tools*
- ▶ *Access to resources for research and knowledge transfert*
- ▶ *Policy measures in sectoral ministries: eg housing, homecare, childcare, , workplace integration, recycling, food security,*

Municipal policy initiatives

- ▶ 2009 'A Social Economy Partnership for Community-based and Sustainable Development
- ▶ 2009 Social economy office (Economic Development Department)
- ▶ 2018: Action plan for social innovation
- ▶ Sectoral policy initiatives: community housing, culture, sports and recreation, food systems
- ▶ Procurement initiatives 'Economie sociale j'achète'
- ▶ Community infrastructure investment
- ▶ Support for emerging sectors: new technologies, micro-transport,

Lessons learned

- ▶ Importance of an integrated ecosystemic approach
- ▶ Relationships based on partnerships and co-construction (versus subordination to a political agenda or public administration)
- ▶ Importance of integrating the social economy into an overall vision of ecological and social transition in an urban setting
- ▶ The strength and resilience of Montreal's social economy is linked to its roots in citizen mobilisation and alliances with social movement
- ▶ Young people are attracted to the social economy as a component of ecological and social transition and the transformation of the dominant economic model