

# Editorial

Cooperativismo y Desarrollo Journal from Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia has contributed to the construction of the emerging paradigm of the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) through the publication and dissemination of scientific articles for the generation of knowledge in the area of social sciences. For the effective fulfillment of this purpose, researchers from several countries have been summoned. In its previous edition, authors from Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico were published.

The scientific articles in Vol. 31, No. 126 (2023), were written by teachers and students of the Interinstitutional Doctorate in Social Solidarity Economy (DISS) of the Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo (UACH) and Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP). These works are a sample of projects under construction of the SSE in Mexico, which range from the particular to the general. For example, case studies of organizations from southern Mexican states (Chiapas and Oaxaca); a study of a community and two solidarity collaboration networks in the center of the country (Hidalgo and Tlaxcala) and, finally, a bibliometric analysis in Spanish-speaking countries.

In general, the published articles account for the diversity of topics that make up the analysis of the SSE, such as: collective empowerment of women, construction of the commons, reproduction of life, community power, public policy, education, research and cooperativism. Some of the conclusions of said research refer to the needs in topics for conducting future studies on the SSE, which means a series of challenges and opportunities for research in the context of understanding and promoting a way of life that prioritizes solidarity, cooperation, and community participation.

With the purpose of disseminating the launch of the issue in question, some of the authors met in a seminar that aimed to elucidate the panorama of the SSE, as an object of research, based on the challenges and potential that it represents for the academic community. With this in mind, we were able to conclude that three of the most important challenges for SSE researchers are: 1) definition and delimitation of the concept, because it is broad and diverse, which can restrict the comparison and understanding of results obtained from research. This challenge is related to the legislation of each country, given that there are differences in the recognition and support of SSE initiatives. 2) Evaluation of the impact of the organizations that make up the SSE, which is a challenge given that the conventional criteria for measuring

success are not sufficient to capture all the social, cultural, and environmental benefits generated. 3) Education and connection, since there are few institutions that teach SSE and, in some programs, there are absences of topics in the specialized training of researchers, which limits the quality and quantity of research in this field and, added to this, is the scarce relationship between authors.

Without a doubt, the aforementioned challenges represent research opportunities, some of them are: 1) investigate alternative models for the definition of innovative and efficient practices that can be applied in similar contexts. 2) Investigate impacts of SSE initiatives, highlighting their potential as a driver of local and regional development. 3) Collaborations between authors, since to carry out an exhaustive analysis it is necessary to combine cultural, political, economic, social, and environmental knowledge to carry out higher quality research.

During our dialogue, we concluded that there are countless topics that can be studied from the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) in all areas of life. There is no specific or linear path of investigations, and no topic is less important than another. Since the SSE is a construction project that proposes another way of living, all research contributes to this other economy that seeks the good life.

Scientific research is a transversal component in the SSE, it represents an opportunity to contribute to increasing public awareness on the subject and can help in the design of policies that support the creation of a favorable environment for its growth.

**Mirna Camacho Berchert**

Doctorado Interinstitucional en Economía Social Solidaria (DIESS)  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2274-2916>