World Social Forum of Transformative Economies (WSFTE)

Barcelona, 25-28th June 2020

A SHORT GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS AND CO-CONSTRUCTION OF THE FORUM
INDEX

WHAT IS THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF)? 3
...AND THE WSF OF TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES? 3
WHERE DID IT START? 3
WHICH IS THE GOAL? 4

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? 4
   Register to the Forum: 5
   Attend the International Online Meetings: 5
   Join the Coordinator Committee and commissions: 5
   Join the Online Forum 7
   Translate basic information about the WSFTE 8
   Become a volunteer during the event! 8
   Propose an activity or announce an initiative 8
WHAT IS THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF)?

The World Social Forum is “an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and forging effective action on the part of organizations and movements of civil society that are (...) committed to building a global society directed towards fruitful relationships among people and between humankind and the planet”, as stated by its Charter of Principles.

It is an exceptional social and political process that was born in January 2001 in Porto Alegre (Brazil) and has spread worldwide in many different forms. It is a process of dialogic intercommunication between people and civil society organizations that work to overcome the multiple planetary crises and their causes and towards “another world” that already exists.

...AND THE WSF OF TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES?

The World Social Forum of Transformative Economies is the first thematic World Social Forum focused on all those practices and initiatives that are changing the dominant economic and financial system. It is a process of convergences and encounters of different local, trans-local and international movements which we call “transformative economies.” The Forum promotes participation and commitment from those initiatives and practices around the world that seek to put life at the center and give alternatives to the currently predominant neoliberal economic system.

Transformative economies is a plural framework for socio-economic transformation that take this same direction. “We can say that two broad axes form the cornerstone of a shared narrative: the sustainability of life (in terms of nature, our bodies and our communities) and the equal distribution of power (the democratic and non-profit-seeking organization of the different ways in which systems of production are organized), breaking with the structures and the culture of power established under the current economic order” (full article).

There are many different networks and movements, interconnected with each other and with other schools of thought, which are the heart of a virtuous circle of the transformative economies. Examples of these are the social solidarity economy and finance, the commons (natural, urban, knowledge and digital), the feminist economies, the agroecology and food sovereignty, as many others linked to just transitions, climate justice, degrowth, indigenous and migrant communities, nonviolent and peace building, liberation economies and many more.

Read here for more information : [link to: https://transformadora.org/en/transformative-economies]

WHERE DID IT START?

The idea of making a thematic forum of transformative economies emerged in August 2016 during the WSF in Montreal, and was presented in the 2018 WSF in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil) by initiative of the Intercontinental Network for Social Solidarity economy (RIPESS) and its Spanish members (REAS, XES). After an international preparatory meeting in April 2019, in July of the same year the Coordination
Committee was created, composed of 23 international organizations and networks, and the convergence of Barcelona, that seek to work according to each region’s needs, demands and contexts.

The decision to undertake this process in the city of Barcelona is not coincidental: Catalonia, whose capital is Barcelona, is a worldwide reference of cooperativism and the solidarity economy, with a history defined by successful social struggles. Once more, the country will stand out on the world scene for its social commitment and its desire to build a better world.

We wish to guarantee the diversity of the participants in this process of the WSFTE. The main event will take place between June 25th until 28th 2020 in Barcelona (Spain).

WHICH IS THE GOAL?

The objective of the FSMET is to bring together representatives of diverse constituencies across the world who are practicing and struggling for systemic alternatives to the neoliberal economy: social movements, practices and community initiatives that put life, people and the environment at the centre of the economy; that promote systemic change and a transition towards resilient and collaborative societies.

The Forum aims to help the mutual exchange and strengthening of alliances and common strategies among the participants as well as building together an inclusive global agenda of transformative actions and policies to change the economy.

The WSFTE seeks to ensure public visibility and recognition of transformative economy projects among existing practices by working on bottom-up processes that connect trans-locally and converge on common issues, supporting the articulation of a plural international movement.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

The FSMET is organised around 3 main converge spaces, where participants in the Forum process can get to know each other, dialogue, share ideas and proposals, aggregate and form consensus around common issues. These spaces are not intended to be all separate from each other, but have different dynamics and levels of networking. Transversal interaction is encouraged and will be part of the program of the event in Barcelona, so participants can be part of different spaces at the same time.

The 3 convergence spaces are as described here:

In order to take part in the convergence spaces and participate in the co-construction of the Forum itself (or “Forum process”), here is what you can do:

**CONVERGENCES**

LOCALS
- Territorial
  - Transformative

MOUVEMENTS
- Movements
  - Transformative

THEMATICS
- Thematic
  - Transformative

- Agroecology and food sovereignty
- Pro-communities
- Solidarity Economies
- Feminist Economies
- Climate Justice
- Public policies (local and international level)
- Education, Finance, etc.

ONLINE FORUM (forum.transformadora.org)
Co-construction of the process and event

WSFTE Commissions
1. **Register to the Forum:**

As an individual, organisation, collective or institution to take part in the process and stay updated.

By registering you will be declaring your intention to participate in the process towards the Forum, you will receive the newsletter and be able to be in touch with other participants in your territory or that work in similar fields. **Register here:** [https://join.transformadora.org/](https://join.transformadora.org/)

2. **Attend the International Online Meetings:**

We are setting up International Online Meeting which anyone is welcome to join (organizations, groups, individuals, platforms, etc.). The goal is to provide information on the stage the WSFTE is at the moment as well as solving any doubts that may arise.

You may join them in the language you are more comfortable with (English, Spanish, French or Japanese).

**Fill in the form if you want to join the upcoming ones:**


*You are welcome to visit the reports from the last IOM in October 25th.*

3. **Join the Coordinator Committee and commissions:**

The Coordinator Committee, is composed by 24 international networks driving the process, which meet every three weeks on-site and over virtual meetings to discuss different topics related to the development of the WSFTE process and the event itself. The Coordination Committee was established in July 2019 and you can find more information [here](#). Members of the coordinator are organized among different commissions.

The co-construction of the Forum is done through its governance structure, a number of Commissions are working in different aspects of the organisation:
People who want to contribute within the commissions should be part of the organizations that are within the Coordination Committee or be part of a thematic/local convergence.

If you wish to become a part of the Coordination Committee, please fill in the form and we will get in touch with you:


In case you would like to join any of the following commissions, you can mark it in the aforementioned form. Or if you want more information, you can get in touch with the technical referent of each commission in the emails below:

- Communication Commission: com@transformadora.org
- Economic and Funding Commission: fund@transformadora.org
- Program and Content Commission: local@transformadora.org
- Event, volunteering and logistics: event@transformadora.org
- International Mobilization Commission: int@transformadora.org
- Virtual mobilization Commission: virtual@transformadora.org
- Mapping Commission: int@transformadora.org
- Welcoming and Care Commission: hola@transformadora.org

Find out more about them in the Online Forum (under “Spaces”).

4. Join the Online Forum

To support this process at the international level, the WSFTE is proposing the use of online digital tools. The Forum’s online platform (“Online Forum” - [forum.transformadora.org](http://forum.transformadora.org)) was launched at the end of the 2019 summer.

This platform (based on the free software Decidim- “we decide” in Catalan) aims to provide an online workspace for all the “convergences” (territorial, movements or thematic) and organising commissions whose members cannot meet physically. The aim is to keep adding more initiatives from all over the world and promote the connection of organizations using convergence spaces that facilitate the strengthening of territorial networks.

The site also provides the possibility of creating participatory debates on proposals (“processes”), in order to build consensus and keeping track of them, including for those who will not be travelling to Barcelona for the Forum event in June 2020.

You are welcome to use the Online Forum in case you want to join or create a convergence or a movement space, or make visible a coalition of organizations that prepares an activity for the WSFTE or promote an initiative of Transformative Economies.

➔ To participate, firstly register as a user in [forum.transformadora.org](http://forum.transformadora.org); and if you’d like to open a space in the Online Forum, please fill in [the form to create a space](http://forum.transformadora.org) and send it to the following emails. We will give you a hand setting it up and providing guidelines on how to use the Online Forum:
Virtual mobilization - virtual@transformadora.org
International mobilization - int@transformadora.org

Once you are registered and have a user at the Online Forum you can:

- **Promote or join a Local convergence**: Where people gather by territorial affinity (city, region, country).

In accordance with WSFTE principles and practices, we encourage Transformative economies initiatives to self-organize in their territories and trans-locally, in the different movements and convergences, as well as preparing activities under the responsibility of organizations or a specific coalition of participating organizations.

You can find the existing ones in the WSFTE online forum and join them.

- **Promote or join a Thematic convergence**: Where people gather by sectorial or cross-thematic affinity.

As the main aim in the convergence process is to help people who are working on similar initiatives and practices and to find common grounds, thematic convergence spaces leading to transformative actions are at the core of the WSFTE. A few have already started meeting - such as the ones on "Co-constructing Public Policies" and the one on "Education, Training and Research".

You can find the existing ones in the WSFTE online forum and join them.

- **Transformative Economies Movements**

As a general framework open to all transformative economies, the WSFTE does not promote a specific movement or vision, but encourages the exchange and mutual recognition among the many existing ones. Since there are existing dynamics and communication spaces which the Forum is not intending to interfere with or replace, the space offered on the Online Forum is mainly directed for the participation to the WSFTE process itself.

Here are some examples of transformative economies movements:

- Feminist Economics and gender perspective
- Agroecological and Food Sovereignty
- Commons (natural, urban, knowledge and digital)
- Social Solidarity Economy (including fair trade, cooperativism and ethical finance).

You can find the existing ones in the WSFTE online forum and join them.

5. Translate basic information about the WSFTE

*(If your mother tongue is other than one of our official languages: Catalan, English, French and Spanish)*

We understand that millions of people who practice transformative economies in the world neither speak nor understand any of our official languages, and yet we want to include everyone within the WSFTE.
Therefore, we invite people like you, who both understand English and your mother language, to help us connect those grassroot people in your country with the process.

We will be providing you with a series of basic material: documents, newsletters and similar that we would very much appreciate you translate into the languages you speak.

You can start with the Call for international mobilisation towards the WSFTE: translate it if your language is not already available and promote it through your channels!

If you would like to volunteer, get in touch with us, letting us know your availability and the language you can translate into at: com@transformadora.org

6. Become a volunteer during the event!

If you are planning on coming during the days of the event and would like to contribute get in touch with: event@transformadora.com

7. Propose an activity or announce an initiative

Register and propose an activity to develop during the days of the event, between the 25 and 28 in Barcelona. Take initiative and let us build the programme together!

https://join.transformadora.org

For further questions and other inquiries, please contact: hola@transformadora.org