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# **"ECONOMICS FOR ECOLOGY"**

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## **THEORETICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**

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Social solidarity economy (SSE) is an alternative form of building economic relations. This model can play an important role in overcoming existing social and economic crises, in particular, reducing the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic [1]. CCEs are recognized as an important lever to stimulate an inclusive and fair transition to green and digital technologies, support social innovation, strengthen local development and job creation, and support vulnerable groups [2].

In a broad sense, the social solidarity economy refers to such forms of labor organization that make it possible to combine economic, social and environmental goals and objectives. In a narrow sense, the social solidarity economy is understood as a form of labor organization that uses the principles of solidarity interaction of members of the economic system and in which social and ecological interests prevail over economic ones, that is, economic results are considered as a means of achieving social goals [3]. The social solidarity economy is significantly different from the public and private sectors in terms of its functioning principles, acting as the so-called "third sector" as an alternative form of organization of social work. The social solidarity economy is characterized by the use of ethical principles and collective solidarity responsibility on the way to the sustainable development of socio-economic and ecological systems.

In modern scientific literature, there are several approaches to the structuring of the social solidarity economy and its holistic understanding. These approaches are based on the relevant criteria that underlie the classification of SSE subjects and determine the manner of its functioning. Social solidarity economy includes several subjects [1], in particular, associations, cooperatives, mutual societies belong to the sphere of SSE in most countries, while the inclusion of public funds and social enterprises remains an open question. Social solidarity economy actors act as a driving force for urban development, often being small or medium-sized organizations that focus on local development, although there are examples of actors that have reached the macroeconomic or international level with a global reach [4].

The lack of perfect competition and perfectly circulating information, the concentration of market subjects can lead to an imbalance in the production of goods, insufficient provision of collective benefits and the emergence of negative external effects in the economy. There is a problem of insufficient consideration of the interests of future generations of people. The deficit of budget funds and

political interests can reduce the efficiency of solving market problems by the state, in particular in the production of collective goods. Social solidarity economy actors are able to partially fill the gaps between the market and the state, mitigating concentrated market power and providing relative advantages to certain participants through collective action [5].

A promising form of organization of the social solidarity economy is platform cooperatives as subjects of local development in the transition to sustainable development of communities. Platform cooperatives implement innovative business projects using digital technologies. The use of the digital environment enables cooperative members to meet to exchange goods and services [6]. This gives the entities of this form of SSE certain advantages in the development of their capabilities. Cooperative platforms operate on the principles of common ownership and enable their members to collectively control production processes and make decisions regarding the development of an online platform. These actors have developed in specific sectors as childcare, transport, urban recycling, data entry, catering, accommodation and support to small and medium enterprises.

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