

Social and solidarity economy in France

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Social and Solidarity Economy in France

● Background

The SSE finds its origins at the crossroads of three economic trends:

- **the social economy:** took off in the 19th century, comes from a desire to reduce inequalities, to compensate for the harmful effects of the industrial revolution and to think about more equitable economic relations.
- **the solidarity economy:** born from the context of economic crisis and unemployment in the 1980s, originally brings together experiments in solidarity carried out with people in situations of exclusion.
- **social entrepreneurship:** which developed in the 1990s, refers to “all private initiatives serving the general interest” aimed at providing innovative solutions to social issues and problems and for which the social purpose is greater than or equal to the economic purpose.



Social and Solidarity Economy in France

- **Legal definition of the SSE in France**

On July 31, 2014, a law in favor of the SSE was adopted. Article 1 of this framework law establishes its scope.

“The social and solidarity economy is a mode of entrepreneurship and economic development adapted to all areas of human activity to which legal entities under private law adhere which meet the following cumulative conditions:

- 1. A goal pursued other than the sole sharing of profits;**
- 2. Democratic governance**, defined and organized by the statutes, providing for information and participation, the expression of which is not only linked to their capital contribution or the amount of their financial contribution, of partners, employees and parties stakeholders in the company's achievements;
- 3. Management in accordance with the following principles: profits are mainly devoted to the objective of maintaining or developing the company's activity; the obligatory reserves established, which cannot be shared, cannot be redistributed. »**



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- **Joining the social economy: what are the benefits and what funding is available?**
 - Joining the SSE gives access to specific regional and national funding, which is listed on the bpifrance website
 - Step up their commitment by obtaining "Entreprise solidaire d'utilité sociale" (ESUS) accreditation, which in particular enables their investors to benefit from a tax reduction when financing their structure
 - ESUS accreditation also enables companies in the social economy to access financing through solidarity savings schemes.



Key figures for the SSE in France in 2022

- 2.6 million jobs
- 10% of the number of jobs in France and 14% of jobs in the private sector
- The distribution of SSE companies in France:
 - 120,749 **non-profit organisations** or 79% of SSE jobs with 2 million jobs (full-time and part-time combined);
 - 23,880 **cooperatives** or 12% of SSE jobs with 313,239 jobs;
 - 7,329 **mutual societies** or 5% of SSE jobs with 137,738 jobs;
 - 721 **foundations** or 0.5% of SSE jobs with 122,916 jobs;
 - 2000 **ESUS approved SSE companies** including 70% associations, 19% commercial companies and 10% cooperatives, or 1.3% of SSE jobs.

Top 5 cooperatives in France in 2022

Name	Sector	2020 turnover (€ millions)	Employees (number in 2020)
ACDLEC Leclerc	Multi-sector including food	48 000	140 000
Groupe Crédit Agricole	Banking	34 000	142 000
U Enseigne	Food trade	26 800	73 000
Groupe BPCE	Banking	22 470	100 344
Groupe Crédit Mutuel	Banking	17 534	83 194

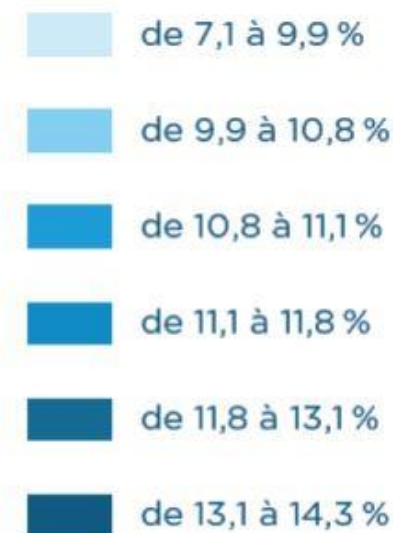
Key figures for the SSE in France in 2022

- SSE in the regions

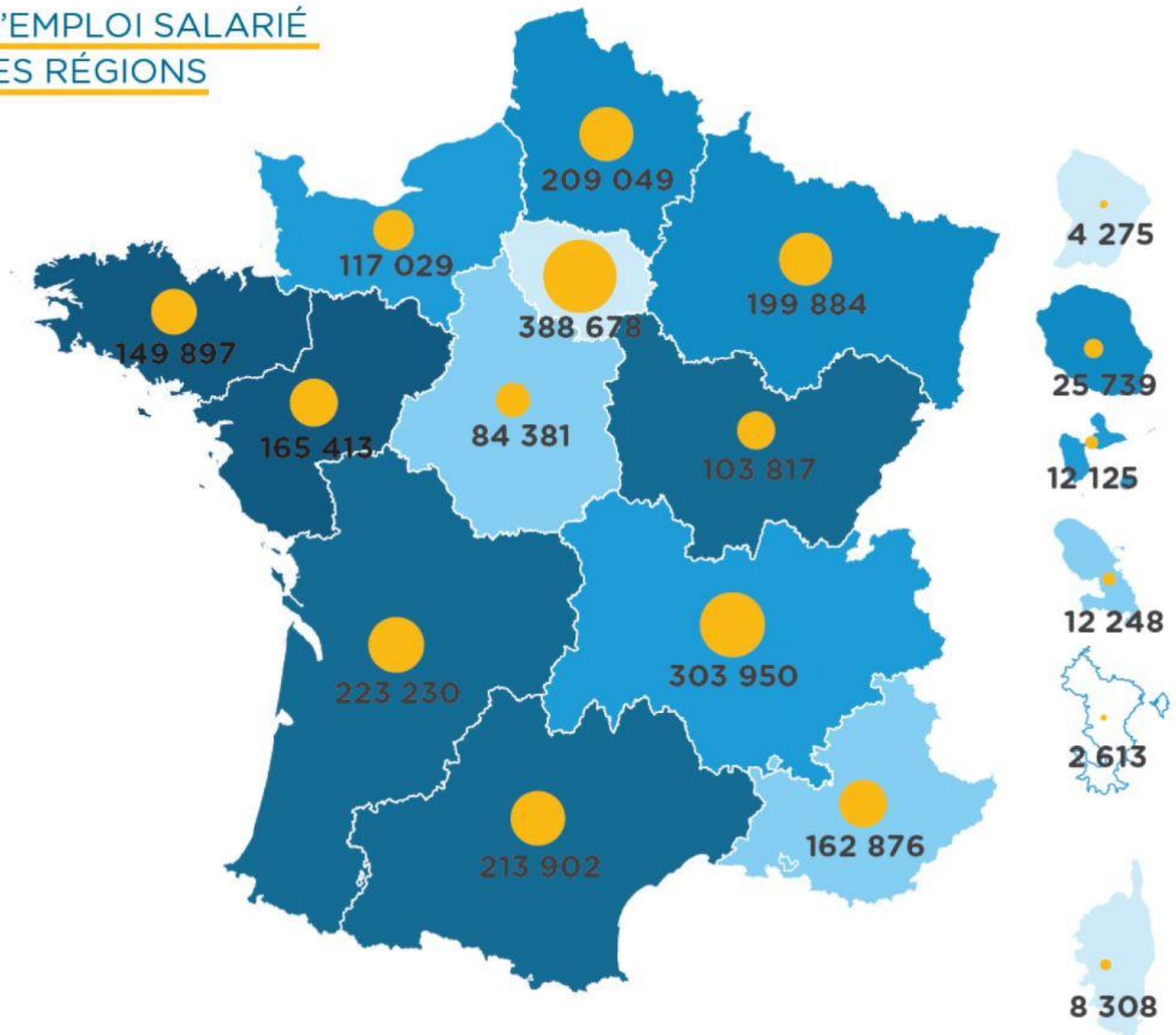
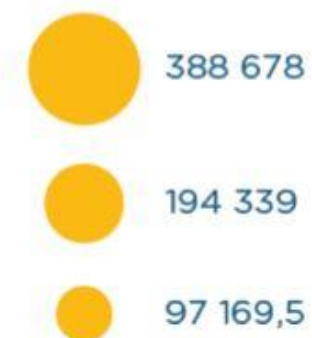
Brittany, Pays de la Loire, Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie are the regions where the SSE is most present with **more than 12% of local jobs** falling within the SSE.

NOMBRE ET PART DE L'EMPLOI SALARIÉ DE L'ESS DANS LES RÉGIONS

Part des emplois de l'ESS dans l'ensemble des emplois de la région



Nombre d'emplois de l'ESS dans la région





Key figures for the SSE in France in 2022

In 2022, among the sectors where the weight of the SSE is significant or even the majority, we find:

- **social action** (social and medico-social accommodation, home help, establishment and service of help through work, integration structures through economic activity, prevention and support organization, charitable associations, etc.) with **59.5% of jobs** in the sector falling under the SSE;
- **sport and leisure** (associative clubs not attached to a national federation, leisure centers, etc.) with **58.1% of jobs** falling under the SSE;
- **arts and entertainment** (live performance associations, independent labels, production companies, concert and performance halls, libraries, cinema libraries, radio stations and associative publishing houses, etc.) with **31.1% of jobs** falling under the 'SSE;
- **financial and insurance activities** (cooperative banking sector, mutual sector) with **29.7% of jobs** falling under the SSE;
- **education** (vocational high schools, apprentice training centers, rural family homes, teaching schools oriented towards alternative pedagogies, continuing education organizations for adults, popular education association, etc.) with **19.4% of jobs** in the SSE sector.



Key figures for the SSE in France in 2022

- **SSE and women**

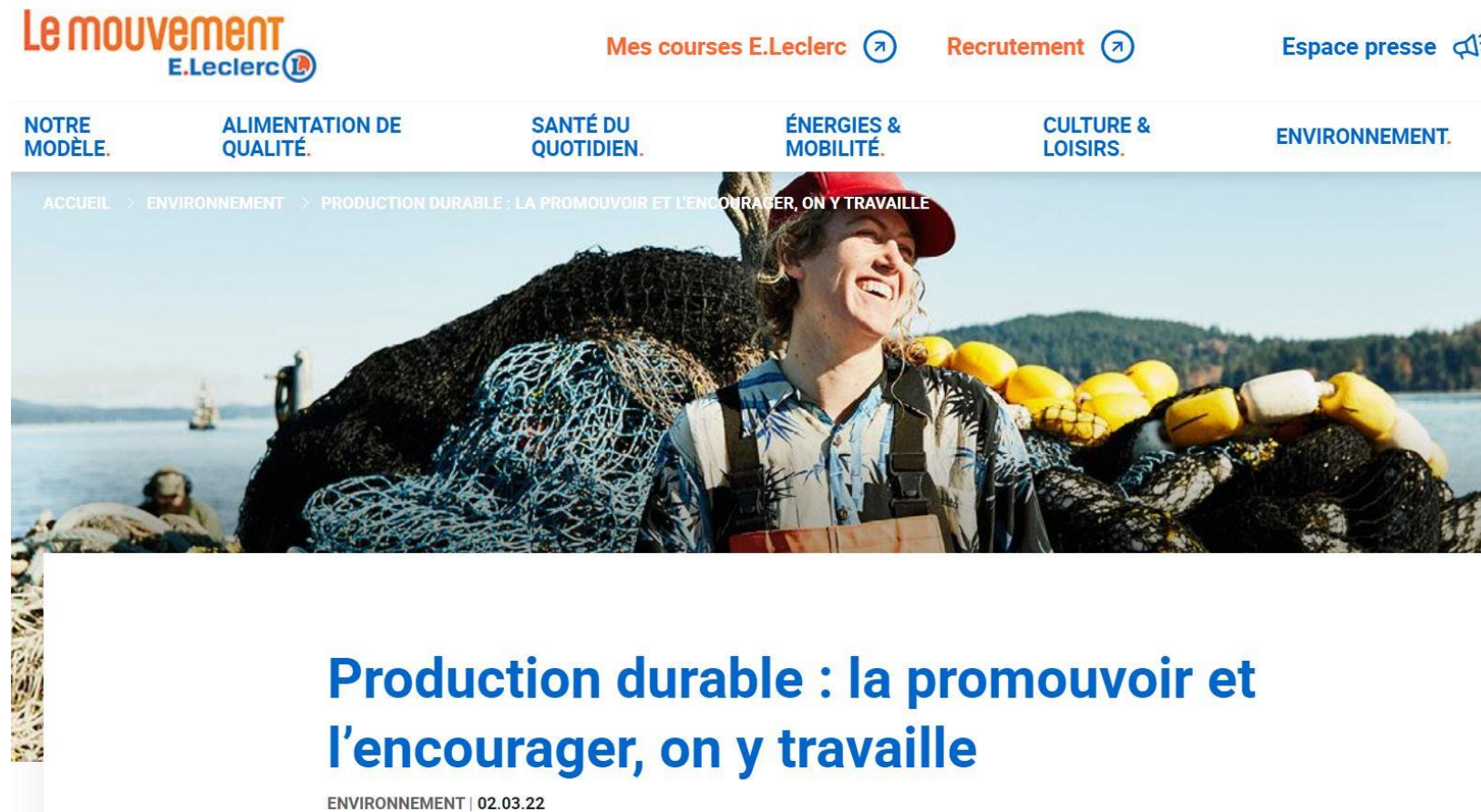
- Among the 2.6 million SSE employees in France, **67% are women**
- However, as in the traditional economy, women face a glass ceiling: only 45% of members of boards of directors and offices of SSE companies are women with an overrepresentation in organizational positions, there where men occupy more strategic or budget-related functions
- And only **37% of SSE company chairs** are held by women



Social dialogue in France

- Unionization: around 8% in 2023 (5% in private sector) – “French Paradox”
- Main unions at national and interbranch level: CGT, CGT-FO, CFDT, CFTC, CFE-CGC
- Employers organisations: MEDEF and CGPME (for SMEs)
- Social dialogue at national (tripartite), sectoral (bipartite) & corporate level
- Collective agreements (sector/company) as main output
- Work councils (CSE) as main forum at company level
 - required for companies with more than 11 employees
 - union membership not required to participate

An example: Leclerc



The "Leclerc movement" and its consequences



Thank you

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