

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The social and solidarity economy, and its decisive role in a strategy for human development, especially at a territorial level, was the subject of a previous issue of *Universitas Forum*, published in December 2009. With the continuation of the global economic crisis and the search for alternative and more inclusive economic models and a new approach to social protection, the experience of the social economy is generating increasing interest around the world and a need to continue sharing innovative knowledge, practices and policies.

Universitas Forum is delighted to publish this special issue containing the abridged versions of background working papers and country case studies prepared for the International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy (FIESS) held in Montreal (Canada) in October 2011.

This has been a collaborative effort between *Universitas Forum* and the Chantier de l'économie sociale in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). We would like to thank, in particular, Béatrice Alain and Emilien Gruet for their constant support in every way throughout the publication process. Sincere thanks also to Margie Mendell who coordinated the research committee for the FIESS and generously wrote the introduction to this issue.

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