

**Developing transdisciplinary research capacities  
to advance the SE field in the face of multidimensional crises**  
**Exploring the different facets of the social and solidarity economy  
and social innovation**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**30<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 · University of Trento, Italy**

**Co-organised by:**



With the support of the ESIC project



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**RATIONALE**

While increasing inequalities, the ecological-social (henceforth, eco-social) crisis has laid the foundations for a purposeful reaction of civil society. In both the global North and South, the aims pursued by active groups of citizens range significantly from supporting a process of social change through a human rights-based approach up to the overturning of mainstream production and consumption patterns through cooperative ownership structures that draw on the active participation of the concerned stakeholders.

The factors triggering a renewed mobilisation of youths, activist groups and local communities are diverse and include among others the transformation of work, the refugee and asylum challenge, the environmental crisis and the recent pandemic.

Among the most innovative responses looking for solutions for emerging social and societal problems is the development of social and solidarity economy organisations (SSE)<sup>1</sup>, including

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<sup>1</sup> The social and solidarity economy as a concept is here used to include: traditional forms of cooperatives and mutual associations, as well as women's self-help groups, community forestry groups, social provisioning organisations or

social enterprises, that have pro-actively contributed to the design of innovative services and inclusion pathways empowering beneficiaries and the broader community.

The Training School will nevertheless welcome contributions related to the broader “SE field”, which refers to the wide domain of social enterprise, social economy, solidarity economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation.

Against the background of shaping the SE field as a critical research theme, the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the EMES Training School will bridge diverse research streams and disciplinary approaches.

Particular attentions will be paid to both new ways to approach multiple and interrelated problems that are being adopted by a growing number of researchers and innovative methodologies, such as multi-level analytical frameworks, developed for instance by the transition studies, systemic (or eco-systemic) approaches and participatory action research, which is employed for open-result-research with a view to generate beneficial transformations at a time of profound socio-economic transformations. The Training School will facilitate interactions with practitioners through dedicated workshops and site visits encouraging the adoption of a transdisciplinary research approach.

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## EMES TRAINING SCHOOLS

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The 9<sup>th</sup> EMES International Training School (#9EMEStrainingschool) aims to reinforce knowledge about the SE field and its still to be harnessed potential in a multiple crises context distinguished by systemic transformations. There have been eight successful editions of the EMES Training Schools so far held at the University of Corsica (France) in 2008; Roskilde University (Denmark) in 2010, the University of Trento (Italy) in 2012; West University of Timișoara (Romania) in 2014; Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow (UK) in 2016; Aix-Marseille University in Marseille (France) in 2018; in a blended learning format led by University College Cork (Ireland) online in 2020 and face-to-face in Teruel in 2021; and Seville (Spain) in 2022. The ninth edition will be held at the University of Trento (Italy) in June-July 2024.

Some 350 PhD candidates and early career researchers (ERC) from over 45 countries have so far participated in these unique learning events. PhDs and ERC constitute a central part of EMES as shown by the special membership category for PhD students, the seat reserved for PhD students in the EMES Board of Directors, and various dedicated concrete activities.

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‘proximity services’, fair trade organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprises, and community currency and alternative finance schemes (UN-Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy - UNTFSSE).

PhD students and ERC coming from different disciplinary backgrounds (such as sociology, management, economics, political sciences, and so on) whose research projects are connected to this field are welcome to apply for this training school. Individual research projects can target different forms of collective action, including social movements, informal grassroots initiatives, and SSE organisations, as well as the context wherein collective initiatives and organisations are embedded (social, political, economic or cultural backgrounds).

EMES, EURICSE and the University of Trento (Unitn) jointly organize the 9<sup>th</sup> EMES Training School aimed at researchers at early career levels, PhDs or completing Masters program who are attracted to conduct research in the wide fields of social entrepreneurship and social enterprise, social economy and solidarity economy (the SE field). Moreover, this edition counts on the support of the European Social Innovation Campus (ESIC) project, under the Erasmus Plus Blueprint program. With this training school, EMES, EURICSE, Unitn and ESIC aim to:

- Strengthen the training of PhD students by means of methodological and theoretical lectures, debates, and professional workshops;
- Emphasise the research design and methodology involved in any research project, specifically in a doctoral and early-career path;
- Provide personalised feedback and support via well-supported small group discussion sessions on participants' research projects, their research questions, approaches and theoretical understandings; more precisely, in addition to various opportunities of informal discussion, at least a full hour will be devoted to every student's research project within group sessions (for presentation by the student, feed-back by professors and their peers, discussion and synthesis of recommendations);
- Provide space for social and intellectual discussion so that doctoral students and ECR will have ample opportunity to establish and expand their own peer networks and benefit from contacts and feedback from established scholars;
- Encourage the engagement of a broad and diverse range of participants, including key actors (e.g., academics, policy makers, practitioners) at the local, national and EU levels. Exchanges with researchers from different countries, continents, cultures and academic disciplines will support stimulating reflections on research approaches, while discussions with practitioners in the field will expose participants to a first-hand experience that expands their capacity to address real life problems in a context of increased complexity.

## FACULTY BODY

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The 9<sup>th</sup> EMES International Training School will include well-known professors from recognised research centres covering a wide spectrum of research themes, and this multi-disciplinary approach will represent a major strength for the participants.

1. **Linda A. Lundgaard**, Roskilde University, Denmark
2. **Matteo Borzaga**, University of Trento, Italy
3. **Hilary Bradbury**, Ireland
4. **Ericka Costa**, University of Trento, Italy
5. **Alice Dal Gobbo**, University of Trento, Italy
6. **Millán Díaz Foncea**, University of Zaragoza, Spain
7. **Philippe Eiselein**, Odisee University of Applied Sciences, Belgium
8. **Sílvia Ferreira**, University of Coimbra, Portugal
9. **Francesca Forno**, University of Trento, Italy
10. **Giulia Galera**, EURICSE, Italy
11. **Malin Gawell**, Södertörns högskola, Sweden
12. **Michela Giovannini**, University of Trento, Italy
13. **Nevena Radoynovska**, Emlyon Business School, France
14. **Nicole Göler von Ravensburg**, Frankfurt UAS, Germany
15. **Lars Hulgård**, USN, Norway
16. **Harri Kostilainen**, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
17. **Benjamin Huybrechts**, IESEG, France
18. **Natalia Magnani**, University of Trento, Italy
19. **Francesca Petrella**, LEST - Aix-Marseille University, France
20. **Marthe Nyssens**, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
21. **Mary O'Shaughnessy**, University College Cork, Ireland
22. **Hilde Svrljuga Sætre**, University of South-Eastern Norway
23. **Jacopo Sforzi**, EURICSE, Italy
24. **Ermanno Tortia**, University of Trento, Italy

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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**EURICSE & University of Trento:** Paolo Fontana, Francesca Forno, Giulia Galera, Michela Giovannini, Ilana Gotz, Maria Muriglio, Riccardo Pomaroli.

**EMES Network:** Tamara Bilbija, Rocío Nogales Muriel, Lucas Olmedo and Kerryn Krige (ECR coordinators).

## APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

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The 9<sup>th</sup> EMES Training School offers six registration options, depending on whether the participant is a member of EMES and whether s/he is coming from non-OECD countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America:

Registration fees	EMES Members *	Non-EMES members
Full registration	200€ <input type="checkbox"/>	260€ <input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced registration	40€ <input type="checkbox"/>	100€ <input type="checkbox"/>

\* Participants registering under this fee will need to provide proof of membership (username). If you are not an EMES member and would like to join, you can do so directly on-line [here](#) (please select the “Graduate membership” fee of 50€).

**Reduced registration** – Only for applicants coming from non-OECD countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The registration fees need to be paid upon communication of the acceptance of the applications to applicants. The registration fee covers registration costs, accommodation and food for registered participants. Travel costs are not included in the registration although there will be scholarships available for participants requiring travel and registration support. You will have to indicate your interest in applying for a scholarship when submitting your application.

Applications to participate in the Training School are accepted until **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. In order to apply, please download and complete the **Application Form** available on [the EMES](#)

[website](#). The result of the selection process will be communicated to applicants **by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the latest**.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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Launch of the call for applications: **29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Application submission deadline: **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Results of the selection process: **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Opening of registration platform: **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Registration deadline: **16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Arrival of participants: **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

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All the academic activities of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Training School will take place at the **University of Trento** (Facoltà di Economia, <https://www.economia.unitn.it/>; and Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, <https://www.giurisprudenza.unitn.it/>) in via Inama, 5, 38122 Trento.

Participants will be staying at the San Bartolameo Residence (<https://www.operauni.tn.it/alloggi/studentato-s-bartolameo>) of the University of Trento in Via della Malpensada, 140, 38122 Trento.

More information on how to reach the Training School venue will soon be published.

## PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

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### **Caterina Rosini, PhD candidate** Polytechnic University of Turin (Italy)

“Two weeks ago, the EMES Summer School started in Seville, and days later, I am still collecting valuable feedback and opinions on my project. It was an intense week full of connections, and as my first experience in the EMES network. I discovered a beautiful reality of professionals and researchers who believe a better world is possible, putting people and values first.”

### **Anna Waligóra, Early Career Researcher** Poznan University of Economics and Business (Poland)

“The week was filled with fruitful work with #8EMEStrainingschool on SE field. To make a long story short, it was a great growing time in Seville. Thank you for creating a unique environment for development and growth. A lot of “invisible” work I appreciate! Also, thanks to my colleagues from the group ECR for inspiring discussions.... and there were a lot more great scholars from the field there!”

## Participant from 7<sup>th</sup> EMES Training School

“It was really a great pleasure for me to take part in the first phase of the COST-EMES training school. Meeting and sharing with people from various parts of the world was surely an added value. I have got insightful comments from my team members about my thesis project. To sum up, this first stage was amazing and so well organized. Let’s hope we will enjoy more good moments at the next phase at the 8th EMES Conference.”

## CHECK OUT SOME VIDEOS FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS TOO!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7HwVaHxxDc>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv07L2rr1g>

Additional information will be published on the registration platform beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> and [www.emes.net](http://www.emes.net)

Subscribe [here](#) to the EMES news alert to be kept abreast of updates.

Start sharing your news about the event using the hashtag **#9EMEStrainingschool!**

For more information, please contact Rocío Nogales (EMES) and Giulia Galera (EURICSE) at [9EMEStraining@emes.net](mailto:9EMEStraining@emes.net)

