

**Social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action:
Bringing principles and values to renew action**

CALL FOR PAPERS

21th - 24th June 2021

University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain

Hosted by



Organised by



The EMES International Research Network, in partnership with the Empower-SE COST Action, the University of Zaragoza's GESES-Zaragoza University Research Group (*Grupo de Estudios Sociales y Económicos del Tercer Sector*), the Social Economy Laboratory LAB_ES and CEPES Aragon are pleased to announce the 8th EMES International Research Conference on the theme "**Social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action: Bringing principles and values to renew action**".

The conference will take place on June 21-24, 2021, at the University of Zaragoza (Zaragoza, Spain). This unique conference aims to be a meeting place for scholars worldwide involved in social enterprise, social and solidarity economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation research across the globe.

On June 21-22 we will hold a Transdisciplinary Forum including exchange and dialogue with non-academic local and international stakeholders. There will be a separate booking system for people who are only attending these two days while full conference delegates are welcome to attend the Transdisciplinary Forum.

We welcome you to *our* conference and look forward to welcoming you in Zaragoza next June.

1. Conference rationale

The growing global social and environmental challenges facing contemporary societies demand more than ever that social enterprises, cooperatives and voluntary organizations put their sometimes divergent hallmark principles and values into practice. A critical question lies in exploring the challenges and promises involved in bringing social enterprise principles and values into action.

We invite scholars to explore synergies between different disciplines within social enterprise research and catalyze critical debate between different research communities (e.g. those relating to social enterprise, social solidarity economy, cooperatives and voluntary action) on the state of the art research and practice. Specifically, we invite contributors to reassess the nature of and controversies surrounding definitions and conceptualizations of these fields. Some of the questions behind these issues include:

What are the distinguishing principles and values that specifically characterize social enterprises, cooperatives and voluntary organizations? How do they converge/diverge and with what implications for addressing societal challenges? How do such principles and values guide the functioning of these organizations? What are the internal challenges and external threats to put these principles and values into practice? Are some social enterprises, cooperatives and voluntary organizations departing from their original principles and values, and if so, what are the consequences? How do these organizations manage to address different and often competing demands stemming from simultaneously embracing business, social and environmental goals? Can social enterprises influence other organizations to engage in more responsible behaviors in social and environmental terms? What are the wider economic, social, societal, and environmental implications of bringing social purpose principles and values into action?

Social enterprises of all forms naturally span several types of boundaries, including actors (public, business, cooperative, associational), resources (market, public procurement, grants, volunteering) and activity fields. Their social mission is usually linked to the activity field(s) in which they operate, ranging from more traditional fields, such as health and social care and work integration, to the emergence of innovative fields, such as social finance, circular economy, platform cooperativism, eco-entrepreneurship, urban regeneration, innovative housing patterns, renewable energy and food supply alongside the social and work integration of migrants. In many cases, they are the result of, or are connected to, a transition movement that in different contexts seeks new models to face social and economic challenges. The entrepreneurial behavior of social enterprises gives new nuances to the tools that already exist for traditional businesses and charities. Moreover, the characteristics of the exchanges, commercial or otherwise, in which they are involved, cause transformations at meso and even macro levels in the institutions that exist in their communities, and the local environments in which they are embedded.

Taking a worldwide and interdisciplinary research perspective, this conference invites diverse scholarly communities to discuss the challenges faced by social enterprises, cooperatives and voluntary organisations to put their principles and values into action, as

well as the potential of these organizations to address critical sustainable development goals. The conference will bring together research communities from all over the world studying different aspects of the third sector through a variety of theoretical lenses and perspectives. These include, but are not limited to, social innovation, social entrepreneurship, voluntary and solidarity action, hybrid organizing, institutional logics, the commons, the transitions, and critical management.

2. Thematic lines and conveners

To encourage academic debate across fields and disciplines, the conference will be structured along 11 main thematic lines to build up an international corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodologies, around “SE” concepts and their praxis. We would particularly encourage authors to submit proposals that address current global challenges and contexts including (but not limited to) the Covid19 pandemic, unemployment, social and racial justice, new patterns of inequality across all thematic lines. The themes are:

Line 1. Theoretical foundations of social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action principles and values: Complimentarities, contradictions and their implications

Line 2. Sustaining and scaling social, cooperative and voluntary action: Balancing and funding SE principles over time

Line 3. Values-driven social innovation and entrepreneurship

Line 4. Multi-Level governance, enabling ecosystems for SE and sustainable development

Line 5. SE meets the commons: social technologies, collaborative economy and open data

Line 6. Innovative fields in the SE action: social and health services, sports, etc.

Line 7. Unleashing the critical and transformative potential of culture and the arts through SE, cooperative and voluntary action

Line 8. Empowering migrants and harnessing the potential of migration via SEs and voluntary action

Line 9. SE, popular, and solidarity economies of the Global North and South: transformative movements, radical values and forms of democracy in action

Line 10. SE research and action under Polanyian principles

Line 11. Advancements on epistemological, methodological and pedagogic aspects of SE

3. Conference committees

The chairs of the conference are **Millán Díaz-Foncea** (GESES-University of Zaragoza, Spain) and **Tracey Coule** (Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom).

Two scientific committees (local and international) were set up to coordinate all the preparations for the conference. The local scientific committee included EMES members and other experts of the academic networks in the field from Spain. They are listed below according to their main affiliation. The international scientific committee included EMES members as well as other scholars interested in the field.

Local Scientific Committee

1. Saioa Arando (Mondragon Unibersitatea)
2. Paloma Bel (Complutense University of Madrid)
3. Ignacio Bretos (University of Zaragoza)
4. Maite Cancelo (University of Santiago de Compostela)
5. Rafael Chaves (University of Valencia)
6. Anjel Errasti (University of the Basque Country)
7. Carmen Guzmán (University of Sevilla)
8. Francisco López-Arceiz (Public University of Navarra)
9. Carmen Marcuello (University of Zaragoza)
10. Elena Meliá (Politecnico University of Valencia)
11. Blanca Miedes (University of Huelva)
12. Teresa Savall (University of Valencia)
13. Eloi Serrano (University Pompeu Fabra)

International Scientific Committee

1. Juan Fernando Álvarez (Universidad Javeriana of Colombia, Colombia)
2. Linda Lundgaard Andersen (Roskilde University, Denmark)
3. Gabriela Avram (University of Limerick, Ireland)
4. Swati Banerjee (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)
5. Danijel Baturina (University of Zagreb, Croatia)
6. Ellen Bennet (Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom)
7. Carlo Borzaga (University of Trento/EURICSE, Italy)
8. Taco Brandsen (Radboud University, The Netherlands)
9. Roberto Cañedo (University of Guerrero, Mexico)
10. Anna Ciepielewska-Kowalik (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
11. Kate Cooney (Yale University, United States)

12. Jacques Defourny (HEC-ULg, Belgium)
13. Florence Degavre (UCL, Belgium)
14. Bernard Enjolras (ISF, Norway)
15. Philippe Eynaud (Université Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)
16. Sílvia Ferreira (CES-UCoimbra, Portugal)
17. Luiz Inacio Gaiger (UNISINOS, Brazil)
18. Giulia Galera (EURICSE, Italy)
19. Malin Gawell (Södertörns Högskola, Sweden)
20. Nicole Göler von Ravensburg (Frankfurt UAS, Germany)
21. Lars Hulgård (Roskilde Universit, Denmark)
22. Benjamin Huybrechts (EM-Lyon/HEC-ULe, Belgium)
23. Yu-Yuan Kuan (National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan)
24. Jean-Louis Laville (CNAM/LISE, France)
25. Joanne McNeill (Yunus Centre Griffith University, Australia)
26. Melinda Mihály (HAS, Hungary)
27. Leandro P. Morais (UNESP, Brazil)
28. Kim Shinyang (Korean Association for Social Economy Studies, South Korea)
29. Sonja Novkovic (Saint Mary's University, Canada)
30. Marthe Nyssens (UCL, Belgium)
31. Mary O'Shaughnessy (UCC, Ireland)
32. Francesca Petrella (AMU, France)
33. Simone Poledrini (University of Perugia, Italy)
34. Mario Radrigan (University of Chile, Chile)
35. Michael Roy (GCU, United Kingdom)
36. Dennis Young (Georgia State University, United States)

Organizing Committee

- EMES Coordination Unit: Rocío Nogales Muriel
- GESES-University of Zaragoza: Mohammad Bataineh, Cristina Bernad, Antonio Eito, Chabier Gimeno, Juan David Gómez, Alla Kristina Lozenko, Bogdan Radu Marhelka (University of Zaragoza); Pablo Pérez (Technology Institute of Aragon);
- Other institutions: Maite Legarra (Mondragon Unibertsitatea); Ana Olveira (University of Santiago de Compostela); Lidia Valiente (University of Seville); Esther Haro and Esther Villajos (University of Valencia).

4. Conference organizers

EMES (EMES International Research Network) has held major international conferences since 2001 and gathers 14 established university research centres and nearly 400 individual researchers from over 50 countries to work on international research projects.

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a pan-European intergovernmental framework. Its mission is to enable breakthrough scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities. The specific Action 16206 supporting this conference is "Empowering the next generation of social enterprise scholars" (EMPOWER-SE).

GESES (*Grupo de Estudios Sociales y Económicos del Tercer Sector*) is a research group formed by an interdisciplinary team of professors from the University of Zaragoza, from the departments of Management and Organization of Companies, Accounting and Finance, Psychology and Sociology, in coordination with external researchers. Institutional member of EMES since 2019, the lines of work of GESES include: 1) Companies and Organizations of the Social Economy; 2) Public Policies and Sustainable Development; 3) Complex Social Problems and Social Innovation; and 4) Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Social Economy Laboratory LAB_ES is conceived as a space for students, teachers and service staff to experience social economy, linked to economic projects based on the principles of participation, mutual support, solidarity and commitment to the environment, within the framework of the University of Zaragoza and in contact with the business and associative reality of this sector. It is divided into three areas: collaborative work, university participation, and collective research.

CEPES-Aragón is an association, at regional level, whose inter-sectorial nature makes it a reference point for the Social Economy in Aragon, and is constituted as a platform for institutional dialogue with the public authorities. The creation of CEPES-Aragon in 2014 is the result of the work carried out by the entities that previously formed part of the Aragonese Platform for the Promotion of the Social Economy. With all of this, the platforms of different entities of the Aragonese Social Economy considered it relevant to constitute a general platform with the main objective of promoting and disseminating the Social Economy in Aragon.

5. Abstract submission

Paper, poster, and panel proposals can be submitted in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish, but the language for presentations at the conference will be English. A maximum of two proposals (abstract of paper, poster or panel) per author as main author will be accepted (three if s/he is a second author).

A **panel submission** is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4) on a particular topic or issue. Please note that panel proposals require an abstract identifying and justifying the theme of the panel as well as a full abstract for each panel paper.

A **poster proposal** is an alternative to presenting a full research paper. New researchers/PhD students in particular are invited to share work-in-progress by means of a poster. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference and a designated session will be scheduled in which participants will be offered the opportunity to meet with authors to discuss their work.

Abstract submission

Abstracts should not exceed 800 words (including references) and they should include:

- A title.
- The conference's thematic line addressed.
- A statement of the empirical or theoretical question locating it within the scientific literature.
- A concise account of the empirical or theoretical methodological approach.
- The main argument of the paper.
- A statement of the main conclusions and their relevance to an international audience.
- Main references.

Authors will be able to submit their abstracts via the online submission system set up for the conference which will be activated in early September. Please note that submissions will be accepted ONLY via the online system: email submissions will not be accepted.

To submit a panel please prepare a *panel proposal* that includes the following elements: rationale of the panel, complete information of the panel coordinator and presenting authors, one full abstract per participating author, and the preferred thematic line. Panel proposals that do not include full abstracts and author information for each paper will not be considered. The person submitting the panel proposal will be considered as the panel coordinator and s/he will be responsible for ensuring that all proposed papers' presenters commit to attending the conference.

Conveners will review the abstracts associated to their thematic line. They will undergo a blind evaluation process based on a set of criteria available on the conference page. The conveners will make the final decision as to whether a paper is accepted and in which type of session it is to be presented.

6. Conference registration

There will be different types of registration available, depending on whether or not participants are members of EMES. Members, including PhD students and regular researchers, enjoy a reduced registration fee. In addition, the organisers will offer an **early-bird registration** fee for those participants who register by 1st April 2021. There will be a special registration fee for professionals interested in participating in the conference (in addition to the Transdisciplinary Forum).

Registration information will be available in early September as well. The registration fee will cover all conference materials, three lunches, one evening gala reception and one dinner event.

If you wish to become an EMES member, please visit our [Membership and networking page](#). Note that in order to register with a member rate, your membership needs to be activated as you need to provide your username.

No participant will be accepted without having registered in the event and no day registration is available (except for the Transdisciplinary Forum).

7. Available support

This conference is part of the Empower-SE COST Action which means that some financial support is available upon reimbursement for accepted presenters. Authors with an accepted abstract from COST Full Countries (CFC), Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) and associated Near Neighbour Countries (NNC)¹ included in the Action may be eligible to apply for funding to cover their travel and accommodation expenses up to a certain established amount, which will be communicated to the selected authors. Priority will be given to young researchers and researchers coming from ITC and NNC. COST reimbursements are made upon submission of a claiming form by the participant after the event has taken place.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors', the organisers are able to offer a reduced fee of 300€ to some participants with an accepted paper coming from non-OECD countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Interest in this non-OECD country fee will have to be expressed in the dedicated check box when registering. This will be assigned based on the scientific quality as per the evaluation score.

¹ CFC are Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. ITC are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey. The five NNC countries currently associated to the Action are Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, Morocco, and Russia.

8. Important dates

Opening of abstract submission – 5th October 2020

Submission of abstracts deadline – 11th January 2021

Notification to authors – 1st March 2021

Deadline for early-bird registration – 5th April 2021

Deadline for conference registration for presenters – 3rd May 2021

Full paper submission (for awards) – 17th May 2021

Programme publication – 31th May 2021

Deadline for registration for non-presenters - 14th June 2019

Conference opening – 21st June 2021

Follow updates on the conference and sign up
for the EMES (www.emes.net) and EMPOWER-SE (www.empowerse.eu) News Alerts

For any questions about this conference, please write to 8emesconf@emes.net

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Event hashtags: #8EMESconf | #EMPOWERSE_EU