

Practitioners' Labs Full Call

3rd - 7th November 2025

Erasmus University Rotterdam & Utrecht University
(The Netherlands)

Deadline: 17th June 2025

Co-organized and hosted by



In November 2025 the 10th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise will take place in the Netherlands. The conference will be held in the vibrant harbour city of Rotterdam and in the wonderful historic city centre of Utrecht. It will be hosted by Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Utrecht University.

With the theme of the conference, 'Scaling Through Communities: The Role of Social Entrepreneurs and Social Enterprises in Boosting Societal Transitions', the organizers intend to bring together not only scholars working on social and community entrepreneurship, but also practitioners involved in social and community entrepreneurship. Therefore, the organizers of the EMES Conference will organize several Practitioners' Labs.

At these labs, practitioners have the opportunity to put forward their experience on social and community entrepreneurship-issues and at the same time discuss the challenges and questions they encounter with academics working on these issues, as well as with fellow-practitioners and policy makers.

1. How does a Practitioners' Labs work?

In the face Practitioners' Labs are organized around specific topics and will take 90 minutes in total. First, several (approx. 6) practitioners will give a short (5-10 minutes) presentation about their initiative and the challenges and questions they encounter that are related to the topic of the specific lab. Second, the participants of the lab (both practitioners, policy-makers and academics) will have an interactive session or debate about the raised issues.

If you want to join in a practitioners' labs as a practitioner, you can put forward your organization's description and the questions you would like to see addressed. There are basically two ways in which practitioners can participate in a lab:

1. Individual contributions to a Practitioners' Labs

Submit an individual contribution describing the organization you are involved in and formulate a number of questions you would like to see addressed. The local organizers will then compose sessions on a specific theme, based on the debating issues raised by the individual contributors.

2. Contributions to an existing Practitioners' Labs

You can propose a contribution to an already set-up **Sponsored Practitioners' Labs**, on a theme proposed by one of the partners of the conference. Labs to which you can contribute will be posted over the next few weeks on the [10th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise – EMES](#) website.

The local organizers of the 10th EMES-conference have sought collaboration with a selection of Dutch organizations (foundations, companies, and policy organizations) that are actively and genuinely concerned about social and community entrepreneurship, and related issues. Their participation in the conference consists of financial support and an active engagement to contribute to the conference by participating with the conference delegates in debates that currently play an active role in Dutch society and beyond.

External practitioners have the opportunity to present their own case and questions for debate in these Sponsored Practitioners' Labs if they submit a proposal for one of these labs (indicating this by using the designated code for the lab they want to contribute to – see further) and if they are selected to do so.

The deadline for proposals for (Contributions to) Practitioners' Labs will be 17 June 2025. Proposals will however be reviewed right after submitting, so we recommend you to submit your proposal as soon as possible. If you submit a proposal for a Practitioners' Lab, you will be notified about the acceptance before the end of June 2025, possibly earlier.

The Practitioners' Labs will be announced in the official program for all conference delegates to attend and will run parallel to other academic and practitioners' sessions. After the conference, the descriptions of the initiatives/organizations will also be shown on the EMES-website, so that these will remain visible to other interested parties.

If you want to propose or contribute to a labs, or submit your case and/or questions, send a message to emes2025conference@uu.nl. Please make sure to include the points mentioned below.

2. Checklist for case descriptions

Make sure your case description contains the following elements.

- name of your organization
- contact details (name contact person, position, address, social media)
- type of organization (social enterprise, community enterprise, support organization etc.)
- location (please provide sufficient details so we can display your case study on a map)
- legal form of your organization
- main goals and activities
- sector your organization deploys its activities in (energy, food, health care, etc.)
- start year of your organization
- a concise history of the organization, identifying highs and lows of its history
- number of professionals and/or volunteers at the moment
- if possible, also include a logo of your organization
- Questions your organization would like to see discussed via a Practitioners' Lab; examples are e.g.:
 - How to address collaboration with (local) governments?
 - How to assess the value of a social or community enterprise?

With your consent, your case description will be published online on a website related to the conference, in order to draw more attention to your organization and to offer all other experts information that may be useful. You may be approached in the future to revise the information you have provided.

In case you have additional questions, please contact the local organizers of the EMES-conference through emes2025conference@uu.nl or the EMES team through 10emesconf@emes.net

Practitioners can of course also attend the conference as non-presenting participants (please visit the [official webpage](#) for further information). Academic researchers are also welcome to submit proposals, but do need to take into account that the Practitioners' Labs are explicitly designed for exchanging experience on practical issues and not for the

presentation of academic papers. Do also note that the call for academic papers has already been closed.

Follow updates on the conference and sign up for the **EMES News Alerts** at www.emes.net

For any questions about this conference, please write to 10emesconf@emes.net

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