

11-14
SEPTEMBER 2023
FRANKFURT

**ACT LOCALLY,
CHANGE
GLOBALLY:**

Social enterprises
and cooperatives
for more resilient
economies and
societies



9th EMES International Research
Conference on Social Enterprise

EMES events

Conference report



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Some words of appreciation

Dear Participants,

First of all, a warm-felt thank you to all of you – researchers, practitioners, policymakers – who joined us for the 9th International EMES Research Conference in Frankfurt/ Main in Germany. From 11-14 September 2023 part of building 4 of Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA-UAS) and the outside grounds around it transformed into a space of exchange between research and practice, academic discussion, networking and community living – the community that is the EMES network with its unique ability to welcome, foster and celebrate.

Although Frankfurt/ Main came in late as a possibility to hold this latest edition of the EMES conference, the local organising team, the EMES coordination unit and a bunch of other engaged EMES members managed to put it all together. As it turns out, Frankfurt was an excellent choice of location. Not only is FRA-UAS the institutional home of EMES Board member Nicole Göler von Ravensburg, who brings research on cooperatives, WISEs and other social enterprises into the the Competence Center for Social Intervention Research (KomSI) at the Department of Social Work and Health – still not mainstream teaching in this field. The campus is located in a leafy neighborhood made for living and working. It is a collection of buildings from different periods scattered around a public space for people to cross on their way, or to use for creational and recreational purposes – an architecture that allows knowledge creation and learning to permeate into the city around it. It is a perfect location to share and exchange about social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, social innovation. And so we did, making the outside space part of the conference venue under late-summer sunshine. Frankfurt / Main is also a city relatively centrally located in Germany, known for its skyline of banking towers. But as we learned during the transdisciplinary day, the city is also home of housing and production cooperatives, a busy landscape of social, cultural and educational

third sector organisations, and WISEs that address a variety of target groups – like the Struwwelpeter (Shockheaded Peter) Museum, whose inventor Heinrich Hoffmann (1809-1894) was a rebel, political activist and social innovator in his own right. All in all, a good place to bring EMES members and other researcher from near and far together, entirely face to face – a relief for the organisers and a pleasure for all who came to meet again or for the first time.

As usual for EMES conferences, those four days were a flurry of activity, starting with the Transdisciplinary Forum, followed by paper sessions and panel, inputs from German policy as well as European strategy to foster social entrepreneurship and social innovation, book presentations, artistic interventions, award ceremonies and dancing. And as luck would have it, the event also coincided with the launch of the first German National Strategy for Social Innovation and Social Enterprises.

Apart from the conference participants we have many others to thank for their support and contributions. First of all the University itself, in particular the Department of Social Work and Health, and the University's event and tech support team. Secondly, our sponsors and financial supporters. Thirdly, some amazing local PhD students joined the local organising team: they surely have their futures as project managers, designers and facilitators secured! Fourthly, the EMES members who took responsibility in evaluating conference abstracts or took charge of various aspects of the conference programme. Lastly but not least, the engaged students who helped that the event ran like clockwork and always had a smile on their faces.

We hope you enjoy reliving some of the intellectual, creative and interactive spirit of the conference by reading the pages of this report. Please share and spread the word in preparation of the 10th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise.



Nicole Göler von Ravensburg
9th EMES Conference Chair



Taco Brandsen
EMES President



Rocío Nogales-Muriel
EMES Director

Welcome to Frankfurt

As almost a tradition, EMES conferences are a rare opportunity for SE scholars around the world focussing on the “SE field” (social enterprises, social and solidarity economy, social innovation, social entrepreneurship) to discuss and foster exchanges about the role and potential of social enterprises in these changing times.

The city of Frankfurt is yet might not be known for its social economy activities but they do exist in manifold forms. Exceptionally for Germany, Frankfurt was never ruled feudally. Perhaps this contributed to its wealth of civic and philanthropic organisations and social enterprise activities developing ever since Medieval times. Beyond its appeal as a business hub, Frankfurt still shows remnants of its industrial past and is so much more in terms of culture and ecology. As a town of commerce and arts, a special concern for vulnerable or trekking individuals and migrant communities is evident until today.

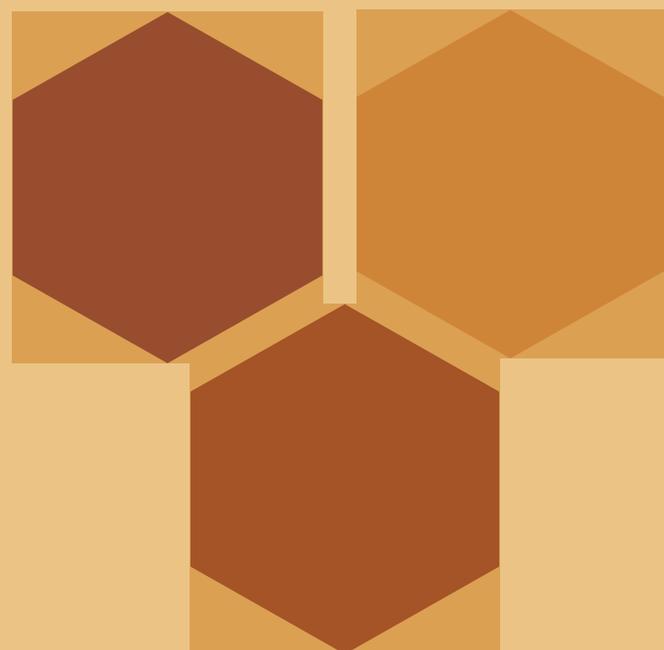
If we consider the current context for organising this conference in Germany, we quote the words of the conference co-chair, Nicole Göler von Ravensburg:

“The German Government is just about to develop first strategy elements to support social economy organizations beyond the traditional welfare sector (Gemeinwohlorientierte Unternehmen). A social innovation strategy is close to being published. Research shows that 75% of all German start-up entrepreneurs are looking for positive social or ecological meaning while one third of investments are made into ecological or regional development. How befitting that the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action is patron to this conference!

All of this is in alignment with the recent recommendations of the European Commission to the EU Council, of the OECD, of the ILO, and the most relevant of the United Nations Assembly, in a European and international SE field momentum.”

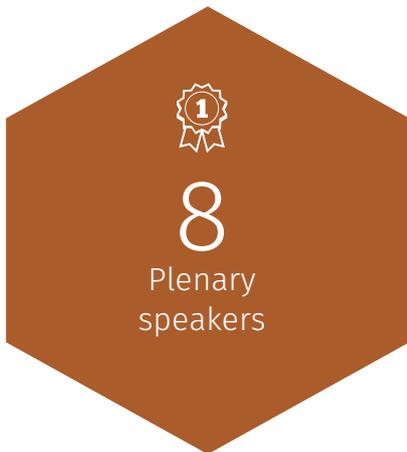
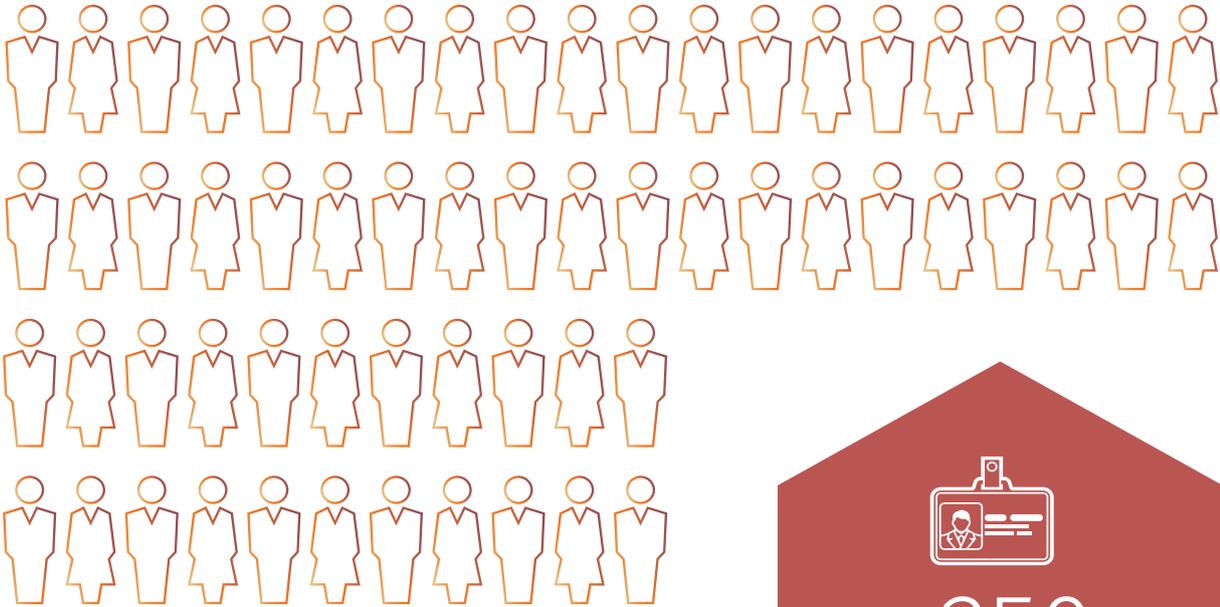
Nevertheless, Frankfurt is the mother town of several dozen work integration social enterprises (WISEs), which some of them we had chance to meet by visiting social enterprises organised during the conference – Struwelpeter Museum and frankfurtersalon. Many other successful social enterprises are to be found in Frankfurt, such as Die Kooperative, Einzigware (care team), the Villa Leonhardi im Palmengarten, Auticon GmbH, Hofmannshöfe – kombinat gGmbH, among others.

In this context, Frankfurt and Germany offered an ideal setting for the 9th edition of EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise, creating synergies together with an academic event of international scope.





We brought together...



and organized...



Thematic lines

EMES conferences are structured along thematic lines as a way to encourage academic debate across fields and disciplines. In the case of the 9EMESconf, there were fourteen main thematic lines to build up an international corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodologies, indicating the role of "SE" concepts (e.g., those relating to the 'SE field' which includes social enterprise, cooperatives, social entrepreneurship, social and solidarity economy, social innovation, public policy and social movements) and practice in tomorrow's world.

They are listed below, together with two presented papers, randomly selected, to provide a taste of the variety of topics and approaches present at the conference. For a complete list of the papers, panels and posters presented, please visit the conference final program, [here](#).

LINE 1: Theoretical and methodological foundations of social enterprises and models of social enterprise worldwide

The 'sectoral shift' in social entrepreneurship discourse: from social sector to the economy and what it implies. Author: Philipp Kenel

A 20-year intellectual journey with EMES through the land of social enterprises. Authors: Marthe Nyssens, Jacques Defourny, Sophie Adam

LINE 2: Financing social enterprises

Financing social innovation by small and local social enterprises. Authors: Nadeen Purna, Stefano De Paoli

Community-Led Initiatives efforts to (re)direct European Union funding lines. Authors: Andre Girardi

LINE 3: Social enterprises and cooperatives for democracy and peace

Capabilities needed to realise organizational democracy in social enterprise. Authors: Ian Vickers, Fergus Lyon, Leandro Sepulveda

One worker, one vote: does the acquisition of voting rights matter for wage gaps? Author: Esmeralda Gerritse

LINE 4: Social impact and sustainable development effects

The Characteristics and Impact of Social Enterprises in Rural Areas of Ireland: an Exploratory Analysis. Authors: Lucas Olmedo-Osuna, Mary O'Shaughnessy

The evaluation of the Social and solidarity Economy in France: an historical perspective on the construction of the field. Authors: Giorgia Trasciani, Francesca Petrella, Marion Studer

LINE 5: Social enterprises and innovation in ecological and social transition

Rational dreamers? Content, functions and forms of social imaginaries in organisational social innovation. Author: Jennifer Eschweiler

Community energy – social innovation through distributed agency. Authors: Emma Folmer, Anna Rebmann

LINE 6: From transformation to transition

What science for a world to transform? Articulating inquiry, knowledge coproduction and experimentalism to study, learn and strengthen social innovation. Author: Carolina Andion

A Co-operative Pathway to Sustainability Transition and Common Prosperity: Karl Polanyi's Great Transformation as a Framework of Analysis.

Author: Li Zhao

LINE 7: Institutional and legal diversity of social enterprises

Hybridity of Logics: Legitimacy approaches for social entrepreneurship in institutionally void environments. Authors: Kerry Krige, Alex Bignotti, Filip De Beule

Econocare: from social enterprise to social entrepreneurship group. Exploring institutional trajectories that fosters SE resilience in accomplishing its social goals. Author: Olivier Jégou

LINE 8: New interaction between for profit enterprises or public entities and social enterprises

At the edge of co-production: Municipal actors' perceptions of community-based social enterprises as partners in local service provision. Authors: Katja Rinne-Koski, Merja Lähdesmäki

Farming together: exploring partnership building in scaling social agricultural cooperatives in Italy. Authors: Jacopo Sforzi, Caterina De Benedictis, Laura Colombo, Sarah Baile

LINE 9: Social enterprises and the digital age

A more sustainable future? Understanding the role of digital technology adoption in addressing Social Enterprise's organisational sustainability. Author: Han-Ju Yang

Tech (a)gendas: feminist histories of technology for radical SE. Author: Kai Green

LINE 10: The role of social enterprises in crisis shaken-welfare

Complex situations: The role and capacity of social enterprises in building community resilience.

Authors: Enrico Testi, Clara Blundel

Cooperatives and "compound crisis" in the "Global South": the case of Rwanda. Authors: Célia Carlier, Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka

LINE 11: Commons and cooperativism in post-growth scenarios

Positioning Nature in the Commons. Author: Philipp Degens



Cooperativism as Commoning? A critical reflection on the example of senior citizens' cooperatives in Germany. Authors: Joschka Moldenhauer, Simon Micken

LINE 12: Social enterprise unleashing the transformative potential of culture and the arts

Empowering Communities: How Social Enterprises are Harnessing the Transformative Potential of the Arts in Finland. Authors: Niina Karvinen, Harri Kostilainen

The embodiment of us: A study of arts and crafts from the angle of the gift economy. Authors: Sílvia Ferreira, Catarina Pires

LINE 13: The role and potential of social enterprises in tackling the migration and refugee challenge

Working with and for migrants: social entrepreneurial rationalities and the possibility of fostering transformation. Author: Eline de Jong

Informal Institutions of Saving as Instruments of Economic and Cultural Resilience in the Diaspora: The Case of Ethiopians in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Author: Kelemework Tafere

LINE 14: Education about social enterprises, cooperatives and social entrepreneurship (special track)

15 years of SE teaching: Learning with and for Social Enterprises. Authors: Réka Matolay, György Pataki

How SE education can empower girls: The effects of a program for primary school children. Authors: Maarten Hogenstijn, Claudia Cuypers

Conference committees

The Conference Chairs were Nicole Göler von Ravensburg (FRA-UAS, Germany), Helen Schneider (FRA-UAS, Germany) and Millán Díaz-Foncea (GESES-University of Zaragoza, Spain).



Nicole Göler von Ravensburg

In 2022 Helen Schneider, Millán Díaz-Foncea and I assumed the organization of the 9th EMES International Conference, meaning EMES trusted us to organize a Transdisciplinary Forum, a scientific programme, public relations, a German language homepage, rooms, catering, hotel discounts, fundraising, an onsite team and excursions. Fortunately we had the EMES Coordination Unit at our side and several engaged members of the wider EMES community. So we achieved to suggest a call for papers to the Board within a matter of weeks, find keynote speakers within a few months and set up a thorough double blind review process.

Despite a relatively short period available we were able to attract some funding from within and outside the university, and found interested German and international SE organizations and representatives who took it upon

themselves to mobilize their networks for workshops to discuss some of the most up-date challenges they are facing with the visiting scientists. Jenny Eschweiler, who has been part of previous EMES projects, was a great help as she very competently communicated in both, German and English, with practice partners championing certain topics. The conference organizing team was completed first with Nadine Woitzik, later with Jana Ammann (project management), Lea Maria Roth (PR and homepage) and Hannah Krugmann (excursions). We were a highly effective team, working hand in hand.

As the main Co-Chair of the Conference, I would like to thank all the people (sponsors, attendees, on-site team, the university community, practice representatives...) and entities (co-organizers, partners, speakers...) for the support provided. The great success of this conference would not have been possible without your support.

Helen Schneider

Being the co-chair for the EMES conference was an interesting experience. We decided at short notice to take over the conference, which was actually supposed to take place at a different location, and therefore had limited time to organize the conference. Despite this, we managed to put together a conference that had a good number of participants and offered very interesting contributions on socio-economic topics. I was particularly impressed that people from all continents came to this conference. In my opinion, international exchange is particularly beneficial and I really enjoyed it. In this way, all participants were able to broaden their professional perspectives.



Millán Díaz-Foncea

The general assessment of this conference has to be, without a doubt, positive. The number and level of contributions presented, the focus on the connection with the professional sector and the potential of public policies, and the holding of meetings of work groups and affinity groups that should lay the foundations for increasing the density of the research network have been key issues. Furthermore, resuming the meeting and normality after the previous Conference in Teruel that was affected by the pandemic has been highly valued by attendees. Finally, it is worth highlighting the connection between the unpopulated areas (such as Teruel, in Spain, from the previous conference) with the location in the center of European economic power (here in Frankfurt) contribute to the EMES International Conference as a value that is not easy to quantify, but that definitely create paths for a more social and inclusive economic development.



Three scientific committees (local, international and doctoral) 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 Germany and Austria. 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. The Doctoral Committee was and innovation set up for the first time for this edition of EMES conference, and included members of the EMES PhD community who have participated in a mentoring initiative during the review process of the conference abstracts.

Local Scientific Committee

- ✍ **Philipp Degens** (University of Hamburg)
- ✍ **Adalbert Evers** (em., University Gießen)
- ✍ **Barbara Klein** (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA-UAS))
- ✍ **Susanne Koch** (FRA-UAS)
- ✍ **Richard Lang** (Bertha von Suttner University, St. Pölten, Austria)
- ✍ **Christian Lautermann** (Institute for Ecological Economy Research, IÖW, Berlin)
- ✍ **Georg Mildenerger** (Heidelberg University)
- ✍ **Gabriele Moos** (University of Applied Sciences, Koblenz)
- ✍ **Anastasia Paschalidou** (FRA-UAS)
- ✍ **Dietmar Rößl** (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)
- ✍ **Christiane Saure** (FRA-UAS)
- ✍ **Katrin Scheiders** (University of Applied Sciences, Koblenz)
- ✍ **Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl** (Munich Business School)



International Scientific Committee

- ✍ **Alex Bignotti** (University of Pretoria, South Africa)
- ✍ **Taco Brandsen** (Radboud University, The Netherlands)
- ✍ **Swati Banerjee** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)
- ✍ **Danijel Baturina** (University of Zagreb, Croatia)
- ✍ **Ellen Bennet** (Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom)
- ✍ **Anna Ciepielewska-Kowalik** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
- ✍ **Tine De Moor** (Erasmus University, The Netherlands)
- ✍ **Frédéric Dufays** (HEC Liège/KU Leuven, Belgium)
- ✍ **Giulio Ecchia** (UNIBO/AICCON, Italy)
- ✍ **Bernard Enjolras** (ISF, Norway)
- ✍ **Philippe Eynaud** (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)
- ✍ **Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh** (Zhejiang University, China)
- ✍ **Sílvia Ferreira** (CES-UCoimbra, Portugal)
- ✍ **Luiz Inacio Gaiger** (UNISINOS, Brazil)
- ✍ **Giulia Galera** (EURICSE, Italy)
- ✍ **Malin Gawell** (Södertörns Högskola, Sweden)
- ✍ **Benjamin Huybrechts** (IESEG School of Management, France)
- ✍ **Akira Kurimoto** (ICA-CCR, Japan)
- ✍ **Jean-Louis Laville** (CNAM/LISE, France)
- ✍ **Linda Lundgaard Andersen** (Roskilde University, Denmark)
- ✍ **Marguerite Mendell** (Concordia University, Canada)
- ✍ **Sonja Novkovic** (Saint Mary's University, Canada)

- ✍ **Marthe Nyssens** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium)
- ✍ **Mary O'Shaughnessy** (UCC, Ireland)
- ✍ **Francesca Petrella** (AMU, France)
- ✍ **Simone Poledrini** (University of Genova, Italy)
- ✍ **Michael Roy** (Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom)
- ✍ **Elizabeth Searing** (University of Texas, USA)
- ✍ **Kim Shinyang** (Korean Association for Social Economy Studies, South Korea)
- ✍ **Davorka Vidovic** (University of Zagreb, Croatia)
- ✍ **Fernanda Wanderley** (Instituto de Investigaciones Socio-Económicas, Bolivia)
- ✍ **Annette Zimmer** (Münster University, Germany)



Doctoral committee

- ✍ **Pushkar Aditya** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)
- ✍ **Emma Forrest** (Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom)
- ✍ **Esmeralda Gerritse** (UCLouvain, Belgium)
- ✍ **Maya Giorbelidze** (Cape Breton University, Canada)
- ✍ **Michela Giovannini** (University of Trento, Italy)
- ✍ **Kai Green** (Roskilde University, Denmark)
- ✍ **Kerryn Krige** (London School of Economics, UK)
- ✍ **Bart Leyen** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)
- ✍ **Lucas Olmedo-Osuna** (University College Cork, Ireland)
- ✍ **Marina Novikova** (ISCTE-IUL/ IOER, Portugal / Germany)
- ✍ **Sergio Páramo-Ortiz** (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
- ✍ **Giorgia Trasciani** (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)

About the organizers and partners

CO-ORGANIZERS



EMES International Research Network

held major international conferences since 2001. The network gathers 15 established university research centres and around 300 individual researchers from over 50 countries. Together, we aim to build up a body of knowledge around our SE concepts including social enterprise, social and solidarity economy, social innovation and social entrepreneurship working on international research projects and exchanging research topics, results and methodologies. We believe in the power of connecting a community of researchers around the world to advance the SE field. EMES seeks to intercommunicate each other's interests, publications and related information while exchanging opportunities for joint publications and research initiatives.



Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA-UAS)

With more than 15,500 students and 1,000 employees, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in Germany. Excellent quality of teaching and research as well as extensive international networks are the claim. Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences Four departments offer 72 degree programmes with technical, economic, legal and social orientation. In addition, sophisticated inter- and transdisciplinary research is conducted. In dialogue with partners from business, associations and institutions, Frankfurt UAS is an innovative development partner in order to jointly generate forwardlooking solutions. The close linking of research and teaching with practice ensures that graduates are able to connect with the world of work. Founded in 1971 as the University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt am Main, the campus is located close to the city centre in the heart of Frankfurt. The Department for Social Work and Health at FRA-UAS (Fachbereich Soziale Arbeit und Gesundheit) offers a wide range of Bachelor's, Master's and continuing education courses (all in all 17 degrees) with regionally anchored practical projects and extensive research activities as well as international contacts and cooperations. With 3.560 students and 80 full-time equivalent faculty this is one of the biggest University Departments of Social Work and Health in Germany. It is eligible for PhD studies and maintains nine research institutes, partakes in two interdisciplinary ones and is party to a joint Hessian Centre for PhD studies in Social Work by four Hessian Universities.



KomSI is a research center formed by an interdisciplinary team of professors from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA-UAS)/ Department of Social Work and Health working in close cooperation with external researchers. The work of KomSI includes: Research on social intervention methods and processes aimed at reducing poverty, homelessness and unemployment, mitigating negative effects of disability, migration and flight, violence, criminality, radicalisation and many more. Interventions in all these areas are being researched on the professional, organisational and institutional levels. Among other scientific conferences, KomSI has organized an EMES/EmpowerSE COST Workshop on Social Enterprises in Social and Health Services in 2019.

Under the patronage of the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

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Volksbank Mittelhessen

Volksbank Mittelhessen is a German cooperative bank in the legal form of a registered cooperative based in Giessen. Founded in 1858 as Gewerbebank Gießen, Volksbank Mittelhessen eG is one of the largest cooperative banks following numerous mergers with a total of 164 originally independent banks in recent years.

www.vb-mittelhessen.de

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Siemens Stiftung

Siemens Stiftung implements international projects that contribute to sustainable social development. One focus is collaboration with and support for social enterprises that positively transform society with innovative ideas and technical solutions, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

www.siemens-stiftung.org

DZ Bank Stiftung

The DZ BANK Foundation is dedicated to the promotion of science and research in the field of banking and finance as well as in the field of cooperatives. It also promotes education and training, particularly in primary school and academic sectors. www.dz-bank-stiftung.de/

Zentralverband der Konsumgenossenschaften

Main task of the Central Association of Consumer Cooperatives is to represent the interests of our members vis-à-vis governments, parliaments and authorities. This applies to cooperative law, competition and food law as well as commercial and tax law. The association also promotes the establishment of new cooperatives in the service sector. www.zdk-hamburg.de

Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft Frankfurt

The Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft Frankfurt am Main is a non-profit foundation that is committed to helping people in Frankfurt am Main with projects that promote the personal development of individuals and strengthen participation in community and society. <https://sptg.de/>

Stadt Frankfurt

Thanks to its location in the centre of Germany and its excellent infrastructure consisting of an airport, rail connections and an internet hub, Frankfurt am Main is perfectly connected to the world. The trading and trade fair city traditionally fosters intensive exchange with other countries and cultures. The cosmopolitan spirit of the city and its cultural openness support encounters and cooperation with countries and municipalities worldwide. People from around 177 nations live in Germany's most international metropolis and have made it their home. <https://frankfurt.de/>

Förderverein der University of Applied Sciences

As a sponsorship association, it aims to support the entire university in all its diversity. The Förderverein supports the teaching staff as well as the students both through direct funding and by awarding prizes. It emphasizes the unity of education, personal and professional development and seeks to help students to become fit for social and economic contributions. Faculty are being supported in their innovativeness for example with an annual innovation prize. Entrepreneurs, representatives of institutions, associations and private individuals, alumni and emeriti who feel connected to Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences document and confirm this through their membership and support to this association. <https://www.frankfurt-university.de/de/hochschule/hochschulforderung/forderverein/>

Siemens Stiftung

The motto of the EMES International Research Conference “Act locally, change globally”, is aligned with our approach at Siemens Stiftung. As an internationally operative and non-profit foundation, we are committed to sustainable social development focusing on three key themes: Access to Essential Services, Connected Societies, and Climate & Sustainability. We had common touch points with various topics and discussions raised at the conference, particularly the role of social enterprises in furthering more resilient communities and self-reliant economies. Our team has been working with social enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa over the years, with impact-driven entrepreneurs who have developed innovative solutions to address local challenges like clean drinking water, access to sustainable energy and affordable e-mobility services.

Social enterprises are agile and innovative, but they need access to best practices and successful models to draw inspiration from, particularly in administrative areas of a young organization like organizational development, capacity building, team structure, same as impact relevant areas such as social marketing, impact measurement etc.

At the EMES conference, we attended sessions which showcased the impact of research in key areas pertinent to both social ecological sectors and in an entrepreneur’s journey.

We’ve experienced the value of bringing practitioners together in the same room with other experts and researchers, who can demonstrate the wider impact of applying some of these concepts into the daily business of running a social enterprise and working on social or environmental impact.

To support social enterprises to grow the impact in these dimensions, research plays a crucial role in analyzing structures of successful business models and sharing these findings with practitioners all over the world. We are happy that the EMES network contributes to supporting entrepreneurs in overcoming this challenge.

SIEMENS | Stiftung





Opening Ceremony

Speakers:

- ✍ **Prof. Dr. Susanne Rägler** - Vice President for Research, Further Education and Transfer, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
- ✍ **Dr. Renate Sterzel** - City Councillor, Frankfurt
- ✍ **Prof. Dr. Taco Brandsen** - President of EMES
- ✍ **Prof. Dr. Helen Schneider, Prof. Dr. Nicole Göler von Ravensburg** also on behalf of **Prof. Dr. Millán Díaz-Foncea** - Conference Chairs

Prof. Dr. Susanne Rägler expressed a very warm welcome to the keynote speakers and panelists and thanked EMES and the Conference Chairs for the hard work and effort made to organize an event of this magnitude. She also thanked the Frankfurt UAS Department of Social Work and Health, as their support was essential for this conference to come true. She briefly explained the history and current activities of the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and emphasized the need to enable professorial staff and students to engage themselves in scientific work and research including the PhD programmes. She valued Social Enterprise studies and wished all conference participants fruitful discussions and a pleasant stay in Frankfurt.

Dr. Renate Sterzel welcomed the conference guests on behalf of the city council and government. She pointed to the uniqueness of Frankfurt as a city of international trade and political importance, civil engagement and early foundations, technological innovativeness and higher education. She introduced examples of longstanding social entrepreneurship especially those accommodating international migration which this city has historically accommodated. She expressed her hope that conference participants would find time to see some of the city's many sights, bearing evidence to this



historical and contemporary world openness and awareness for social needs.

Prof. Dr. Taco Brandsen formally opened the conference and especially the Transdisciplinary Day, giving a special welcome to the many representatives from SE organisations at national, regional and local level present today and to all the scientists partaking. He also expressed his and the Board's great joy at being able to once more offer a conference in full presence after the confines COVID 19 had placed on the 2021 conference. Turning to the Vice president and the City Councillor he expressed his warm appreciation that they were hosting the conference in this city which he had come to know as a very hospitable one, having lived here himself before.

He then underlined the actuality of the conference's title: Act locally, change globally – social enterprises and cooperatives for more resilient economies and societies. There was nothing more constant than change and the changes we were witnessing in these last few years might but be a foretaste of the many and rapid ones to come. Even though social enterprises and cooperatives weren't a panacea they had proven their clout in helping communities, regions and nations to deal with expected and frequently unexpected situations. This could be shown scientifically. It was now important to substantiate this research even further and to carry it to wider attention than just the research community. Conferences like this one could serve as focus points and strengthen research networks while also raising awareness of the phenomena as well as communities involved in this social economy work. With this hope he wished all an inspiring conference.

Prof. Dr. Nicole Göler von Ravensburg thanked EMES for letting the Competence Center for

Social Intervention Research at the Department for Social Work and Health of Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences host the 9th Int. Conference. She thanked the donors and sponsors especially Volksbank Mittelhessen, Siemens Stiftung, the Polytechnische Gesellschaft, the Zentralverband der Konsumgenossenschaften, the Stiftung of the Deutsche Zentralbank der Genossenschaften (DZ Bank), City of Frankfurt and as well as Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, her Department and the Competence Center of Social Intervention Research for all their contributions to making this conference possible.

She also thanked co-chairs, the staff members of FRA-UAS, who cooperated and the organizing team for their part in preparing the conference and above all the many researchers and the social and ecological organisations and entities present here today. She briefly introduced the conference programme.

Prof. Dr. Helen Schneider also welcomed all participants and explained how to find venues and localities. She introduced the conference staff as well as the videographer and photographer. She invited all to the Transdisciplinary Forum, into the preparation of which about 60 representatives of practice, federations, institutions which promote SE in Germany, Ireland, Italy and elsewhere in Europe, as well as a dozen or so representatives of very active and successful local social enterprises had been involved. She also expressed her gratitude to all who had come here today, for the time they had put into preparing to share their experiences and all the other resources they had invested in coming here and conveyed the hope of the entire host team that all would find the coming hours fruitful and pleasurable at once.

FRA
2023



ACT LOCALLY, CHANGE GLOBALLY:
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVES
FOR MORE RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES
From research to practice and back

Transdisciplinary Forum

On 11 September 2023, an exciting event opened the 9th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise: a day of exchanges between practice and science on the potential of social enterprises and cooperatives for the diffusion of transformative solutions. It was exciting because 60 representatives of SE research, local, regional and international social enterprises and cooperatives, and of European networks and institutions came to together in 12 workshops to discuss and exchange on a broad array of topics concerned with social justice, SE education, care solutions, green transition and more.

The Transdisciplinary Forum (TDF), running in its 6th edition, contributed to a concern that many researchers in the EMES network share: to locate our research and collaborations right at the heart of society, where it can contribute to transformative change and give voice to a sector of mutual, membership based and solidarity-driven organisations. It is significant because universities increasingly seek to engage in research that is responsible, collaborative and thus contributes to social innovation and sustainable transition. It is particularly significant for the EMES network, which has always pushed for a conceptual understanding of SE that acknowledges its roots in third sector and solidarity-based organisations, linking SE to ethics and democracy as much as to the use of economic means to achieve social goals. Responsibility in research is also linked to critical investigation, to dissect what SE can and cannot do, aware of context and in relation to other social dynamics. It is equally important to share such insights with practitioners and students alike. We as academics still have much to learn about how to communicate with practitioner networks and make our research relevant for the social and transformative missions they pursue. It is a path on which we learn together step by step how to turn social entrepreneurship into a 21st century tool.

The programme of the TDF has been a truly collaborative effort. This is the moment to warmly thank once more the colleagues from research and practice who stepped up to coordinate the thematic workshops during this important day, which was inspiring, uplifting, thought-provoking and fun. Thank you (in alphabetical order)

- ✍ Benjamin Dannemann (DGRV) – Workshop 11
- ✍ Abel Díaz González (Maastricht University) - Workshop 5
- ✍ Giulia Galera (EURICSE) – Workshop 10
- ✍ Nóra Györke, Ivana Davidovska (EASPD) – Workshop 3
- ✍ Markus Hanisch (Humboldt University Berlin) – Workshop 8
- ✍ Fabian Hunnius (Heel GmbH & Verein für Körper- und Mehrfachbehinderte Weingarten e.V.) – Workshop 2
- ✍ Birgit Heilig (Sozialinnovator Hessen) – Workshop 6
- ✍ Philipp Kenel (Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin) – Workshop 9
- ✍ Lila Mastora (Action Aid Greece) -Workshop 4
- ✍ Georg Mildenerger (Heidelberg University) – Workshop 7
- ✍ Joschka Moldenhauer (Cologne University) - Workshop 12
- ✍ Alessandro Narduzzo (Free University of Bolzano) – Workshop 10
- ✍ Rocío Nogales Muriel (EMES) – Workshop 5
- ✍ Lucas Olmedo-Osuna (University College Cork) – Workshop 8
- ✍ Mary O’Shaughnessy University College Cork) – Workshop 8
- ✍ Sergio Paramo-Ortiz (Maastricht University) – Workshop 5
- ✍ Nevena Radoynovska (EM Lyon) – Workshop 5
- ✍ Simeon Ries (Facettenwerk) – Workshop 3
- ✍ Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl (Munich Business School & Next Generation Impact) – Workshop 1
- ✍ Michael Wunsch (SEND e.V.) – Workshop 6

The following pages give you an idea of the many topics that were discussed. The TDF ended with an open plenary, harvesting new questions for researchers.

We also want to thank those participants whose special financial contribution helped to make the TDF possible:

- ✍ Sole Soc. Coop. Sociale Italia
- ✍ Competence Center for Cooperative Management, Free University of Bolzano
- ✍ DGRV Bundesgeschäftsstelle Energiegenossenschaften
- ✍ Action Aid Hellas

Workshop 1: MODERN FINANCING INSTRUMENTS FOR SE

Part 1: Governance in the Social Finance Sector:

In this session, focus was on governance in the field of social finance and the role of various actors in controlling and steering financing decisions for social enterprises and the social economy. The discussion addressed how different groups and models influence the allocation of capital and the impact this has on financing social projects. Focus was also

on capital owners' preferences, which are often ignored or discounted when investment decisions are taken. The goal was to generate new insights and recommendations for policy, business, and academia to promote a more sustainable and responsible financing of social enterprises and the social economy.

With input from:

- ✉ Cornelia Nyssing, Bertelsmann Foundation
- ✉ Valentina Patetta, Policy Officer, FEBEA
- ✉ Flip de Beule, KU Leuven

Part 2: Insights from Practice: Social Finance and Funding for the Social Economy

This session brought together practitioners from the field of social finance to share their experiences and insights on the current state of funding for the social economy. The aim was to gain an understanding of the ongoing work in the field and derive research objectives from it.

With input from:

- ✉ Daniel Sorrosal, Secretary General of European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers (FEBEA)
- ✉ Markus Freiburg, Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE)
- ✉ Stephanie Kraus-Nijboer, Social Impact Banking at UniCredit Bank AG

Workshop 2: SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS IN SOCIAL WORK AND CARE – SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES OF GERMAN SE

Part 1: Recruiting 4.0

This interactive seminar took a critical look at current (digital) trends in the recruitment of skilled social workers and care staff. Enterprises increasingly find themselves in the situation where they have to impress applicants and present themselves as attractive employers. How can social enterprises take advantage of this potential? Artificial intelligence and algorithm-based techniques offer opportunities to target potential employees. Participants had a chance to test digital tools.

Part 2: How social sustainability can contribute to the establishment of a successful employer brand

In the next few years, the new EU directive on corporate sustainability reporting will force

companies to account for efforts towards sustainability in their annual financial statements, thus becoming more transparent for future applicants. Sustainability increasingly being an issue for applicants, significant steps in this regard can also become a competitive advantage for social enterprises in the search for qualified staff. Using digital tools and practical insights, this session explored what successful establishment of social sustainability can look like.

With input from:

- ✉ Anjalika Bhaskar-Sawahn, Berami
- ✉ Malte Bau, Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg

Workshop 3: SE FOR WORK INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH LABOUR MARKET DISADVANTAGES

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) presented findings from the 'Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in Work Integration Social Enterprises' (B-WISE) project that aimed to develop a European strategy to address skills needs, particularly digital skills, in the WISEs sector. The workshop presented an opportunity to discuss the usefulness of the approach for the German context together with local work integration, embedded in broader questions of 'normalisation' of disability in workplace (and social life). The workshop thus aimed at presenting new tools for better inclusion at organizational level while mapping the challenges we must engage with at systems level.

With input from:

- ✉ Maureen Ekizoglu, Dialog im Dunkeln, Frankfurt a.M.
- ✉ Lena Haunold, formerly Frankfurter Salon
- ✉ Simeon Ries, Facettenwerk
- ✉ Nóra Györke, EASPD

Workshop 4: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND MIGRATION

This session created a discussion forum with coordinators of key EU projects and migrant WISEs on the role of the social economy and migration, exchanging perspectives on the potentials and

limitations of the social economy in tackling the refugee challenge and its contribution to building a more cohesive society where newcomers are fully integrated.

With input from:

- ✍ Alessia Sebillio, RIDE project
- ✍ Marika Gruber, Matilde Horizon Project
- ✍ Lila Mastora, Momentum Project/Action AID Hellas
- ✍ Giulia Galera, Miledù
- ✍ Nici von Alvensleben, Stitch by Stitch
- ✍ Heike Birkhölzer, Graefewirtschaft

Workshop 5: FETSE - FORUM ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SE

Social Enterprise Education (SEE) is a challenging task. Oftentimes limited to equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to become social entrepreneurs within the boundaries of a classroom, the three sessions of the all-time popular workshop focussed on three themes:

Part 1: From classroom to impact: Teaching design and delivery

Three impulse talks raised questions of the right learning formats to anchor SE education (in curricular formats) at universities; what we can learn from different teaching approaches, methods, and curriculum design; and where to draw the boundaries of the classroom for SE teaching and training.

With input from:

- ✍ Abel Díaz González & Sergio Páramo, Maastricht University, School of Business and Economics



- ✍ Anne-Karen Hüske, Copenhagen Business School
- ✍ Rocío Nogales Muriel, EMES
- ✍ Sergio Páramo Ortiz, Maastricht University
- ✍ Anne Schlieker, Social Entrepreneurship Akademie / Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship

Part 2: International projects and platforms promoting and supporting social entrepreneurship education and training

Researchers shared lessons learned and dilemmas encountered in Erasmus projects and other (inter) national platforms and initiatives focusing on SE, including social entrepreneurship education.

With input from:

- ✍ Mihai Lisetchi, University of West Timisoara (TRACCE and Dlyouth projects)
- ✍ Debbi Brock, Catalyst 2030 (The Social Impact Educators Series)
- ✍ Bart Leyen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Part 3: Innovations from national and regional SE networks

Networks devoted to SE teaching and education showcased how they advance collaboration and curriculum development.





With input from:

- ✍ Alex Bignotti, Pretoria University, (African Network of Social Entrepreneurship Scholars - ANSES)
- ✍ Kerryn Krige, London School of Economics (UK)
- ✍ Leendert de Bell, Dutch Knowledge Network for Social Entrepreneurship - KSON
- ✍ Linda Lundgaard Andersen, Roskilde University, (DIMSE and EMSE)

Workshop 6: COLLABORATION AND NETWORKS FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Part 1: Cooperations and networks are an indispensable asset in creating innovation. This interactive workshop outlined the do's and don'ts in intersectoral collaboration.

With input from:

- ✍ Diana Wittmann, Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.
- ✍ Birgit Heilig, Sozialinnovator Hessen
- ✍ Michael Wunsch, SEND e.V.

Part 2: Creating an ecosystem for Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation – Insights from the Social Entrepreneurship Network Germany

Within the past few years, first saplings of an ecosystem for social innovation and social entrepreneurship have started to grow in Germany. The workshop introduced the relevant and crucial elements of this ecosystem in order to deduct potential topics for further research in how to support ecosystem building with scientific research results.

With input from:

- ✍ Heike Birkhölzer, Social Economy Berlin

✍ Birgit Heilig,
Sozialinnovator Hessen

✍ Michael Wunsch, SEND e.V.

Workshop 7: SOCIAL INNOVATION AS INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF EUROPEAN FUNDING SCHEMES. ESF+ AND THE NATIONAL COMPETENCE CENTERS FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

With support of the European Social Fund and the EU program for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) national competence centers were set up all over Europe to drive social innovation – locally, regionally, nationally and transnationally. In two workshops policy makers, practitioners and researchers discussed how the innovative capacity of social enterprises can be enhanced and spread in the community, what means are available to stimulate and support social innovation in social enterprises and how their experiences and capacities may be harnessed to improve the use of funds provided by the EC in different programs.

Part 1: National competence centers for social innovation in Europe

Focus was on the work of the national competence centers. How were they set up, how did they operate, what did they achieve und what are lessons learned for the future?

Part 2: Social innovation in ESF+. Perspectives for the years to come.

This workshop looked ahead. What are the views of the European Commission towards social innovation in ESF+. What are plans for the future? Representatives of the EC presented the plans for ESF+ towards supportive structures for social innovation.

With input from:

- ✍ Neringa Proskute, Social Innovation Competence Group, European Social Fund Agency

- ✍ Norbert Kunz, Social Impact
- ✍ Michael Grosse, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Workshop 8: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL INNOVATION IN RURAL AREAS

Social innovation initiatives and social economy organisations operating in rural areas have received increasing attention due to their potential to address some of the complex challenges that rural societies and the environment are currently facing, including social exclusion of vulnerable groups, the consequences of climate change, youth out-migration and depopulation. In two sessions, this workshop facilitated practical knowledge exchange and discussion between practitioners and academics in three complementary ways: first, discussing the benefits and challenges of integrating research and practice through the presentation of case studies related to social innovation and social enterprises in rural areas. Second, using co-developing strategies to arrive at future scenarios which enhance the role of social innovation and social economy organisations towards an inclusive, integrated and sustainable rural development. Third, by developing project brainstorming and networking opportunities between practitioners and academics present in the forum for calls related to social innovation, social enterprises and social economy in rural areas.

With input from:

- ✍ Clara Lourenco, EPAM/ADC Moura, Portugal
- ✍ Dr. Katrin Martins, Humboldt University, Germany
- ✍ Pdraig Casey, Ballyhoura Development CLG, Ireland
- ✍ Gerd Nootebohm, Innova e.G, Germany
- ✍ Mathias Fiedler, Coop Association ZDK, Germany
- ✍ Nerea Abad-Itoiz and Marta Solórzano-García, U.N.E.D., Spain
- ✍ Markus Hanisch, Humboldt University, Germany
- ✍ Lucas Olmedo-Osuna, University College Cork, Ireland



Workshop 9: TRADITIONAL AND NEW SOCIAL ECONOMY MOVEMENTS – CAN THEY WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM?

Through a rising interest in sustainable and ethical consumption and production, new social economy models and scenes are emerging, such as ‘Circular Economy’, ‘Social Entrepreneurship’, or ‘Slow Fashion’. They have developed next to traditional social economy movements such as ‘Fair Trade’. Until now, however, there is only little cooperation between these different social economy movements, each of them developing their own supply channels and networks.

Focusing on the field of fashion & textiles as an example, this workshop explored in two sessions the differences and similarities of the various social economy approaches; if and how they challenge the current status quo and encourage social change; the obstacles to cooperation between both scenes

and how cooperation between the different social economy movements could be beneficial, in advocacy and in competition to 'fast fashion'.

With input from:

- ✍ Nicole von Alvensleben, Founder, Stitch by Stitch
- ✍ Jürgen Herold, Managing Director, Frida Feeling
- ✍ Steffen Weber, Managing Director, Weltladen Dachverband

Workshop 10: THE EVOLUTION OF THE COOPERATIVE FORM. TOWARDS A STRONGER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

This session gave visibility to innovative cooperative initiatives that have emerged to encounter unmet needs in relation to community building, food production, climate change, aging populations, or long-term unemployment. Experts from Italy, Germany and France provided a critical reflection on the diverse patterns of evolution of cooperatives in key fields of engagement, with particular focus on community-oriented cooperatives, and new cooperative forms that have recently been recognized in selected countries. The session confirmed new cooperatives' intrinsic flexibility and capacity to adjust to new needs, while also paying to the significant challenges they need to face in some contexts.

With input from:

- ✍ Manuela Paulmichl, Province of Bolzano (Italy), Cooperative Development Office
- ✍ Alessandro Narduzzo, Competence Center for Cooperative Management, Free University of Bolzano
- ✍ Francesca Petrella, University Aix en Provence, France

Workshop 11: ENERGY SHARING: A CHANCE FOR A LOCAL ENERGY MARKET AGAINST GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE?

The energy market in Europe is highly centralized. Although local groups, entrepreneurs and households use the new chances of photovoltaic systems and wind energy for a decentralized energy



production, the legal framework makes it very difficult and complex to use the electricity locally. For the more than 800 energy cooperatives in Germany with nearly impossible to supply their more than 200.000 members with their own electricity. With the Renewable Energy Directive, the European Commission introduced energy sharing as a new market instrument. The workshop gave insight on energy sharing in Germany, Denmark and Italy and discussed new possibilities and obstacles for a local energy market.

With input from:

- ✍ Sara Capuzzo, Enostra, Italy
- ✍ Stephan C. Krabsen, EBO Consult, Denmark
- ✍ Benjamin Dannemann, DGRV, Germany

Workshop 12: CITIZEN COOPERATIVES FOR THE ELDERLY – REPLICATION OF AN IDEA TO CREATE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED INFRASTRUCTURES

The task of citizen cooperatives is to provide care in all areas of everyday life. In the case of senior citizens' or intergenerational cooperatives, the spectrum ranges from simple household services to more complex forms of everyday assistance to care and the facilitation of communal forms of living. They are building blocks for securing the local infrastructure and stand for a value system based on subsidiarity and solidarity. This workshop brought together research and practice to look at potentials and obstacles of replication and scaling of these building blocks of infrastructure with the aim to foster international exchange of ideas and models.

With input from:

- ✍ Roberta Massi & Samuele Verucchi, Cooperativa Sociale Sole, Italy
- ✍ Gregorio Aviles, SUPSI, Switzerland
- ✍ Richard Lang, Bertha von Suttner Privatuniversität St. Pölten, Austria
- ✍ Hans Preißl, Oberhof e.G., Bad Homburg

Lessons learned from the TDF

1. Seeing that there is a general staff shortage in WISEs, the TDF workshop group 3 came to the conclusion, that more research should go into the international comparison of job profiles and educational careers of personal in WISEs, as well as of the role of Human Resource development in SE and coops.
2. The discussion led to the recognition, that SE for persons with labour market disadvantages in many countries currently need to find answers on how to reconcile personalized services with digitalization. Their shared vision of being person-centred is at stake due to changing institutional ecosystems.
3. European SE aiming at the integration of migrants are challenged by negative attitudes towards migrants as well as to themselves. They expect more research into (informal) skills and local needs assessment methods, adequate mixed funding and management tools as well as assistance in regard to advocacy for their social and solidarity work and helpful networking strategies for collaborative rather than competitive framework conditions.
4. It was agreed, that collaborations and networks for social enterprises and cooperatives are central to strengthen the effect SEs can have. For collaborations to sustain themselves over time though, they need to adopt self-reflective type organisational development processes. Academia could help them with asking simple questions while at the same time exploring a) the salient points of capacity and b) new paths for ascertaining continued impact.
5. Research across various countries proves an amazing creativity by SE and Coops and great vibrancy in rural inclusion. Yet, to contribute to them improving even further, research needs to become more aligned with rural perspectives. One suggestion is to co-design research with the persons involved, adopt more pluralistic research perspectives and include spacial perspectives and disciplines.
6. Traditional and new SE in fair fashion are aware that they need to cooperate. Such cooperation could be most fruitful in impact assessment, education, branding and advocacy. However, resources to initiate cooperation are scarce in this sector. Thus cooperation should at this point in time concentrate on creating a unified voice.
7. Cooperative type SE ought to be encouraged to re-affirm their cooperative advantages stemming from close community and multi-stakeholder ties. In order to do so future research into management models must focus on the specificities of the cooperative form in order to contribute to more appropriate and innovative management tools adequate for cooperative complexity.
8. Energy sharing was seen as a very promising future for social enterprises and cooperatives but also for any successful national energy transition. There can be a close interaction between SE and coops as drivers in this and the creation of appropriate institutional frameworks. This needs more attention by research.
9. For the replication of successful models of citizens' cooperatives for the elderly research needs to go deeper into learning processes at the basis of (increased) community solidarity, activation, participation and democratic self-organisation. Yet better institutional support mechanisms also need academic attention.

er 2023

University of Applied Sciences
- Germany

MES CONF 2023

ACT LOCALLY,
CHANGE
GLOBALLY:

Social enterprises
and cooperatives
for more resilient
economies and societies

Semi-Plenary

SE in transformation

Zarah Bruhn - Commissioner for
Social Innovation & founder/ CEO
of socialbee (Germany)

Sven Giegold - State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Economic
Affairs and Climate Action
(Germany)

Chairs: Marthe Nyssens (UCL,
Belgium) and Nicole Göler von
Ravensburg (FRA-UAS, Germany)

Conference plenary sessions



OPENING PLENARY SESSION Science meets politics and practice.

Keynote speaker: Sarah de Heusch, Director of Social Economy Europe (Belgium)

Chair: Francesca Petrella (AMU, France)

The opening plenary of the 9th EMES conference was dedicated to the bridge between sciences and politics as a way to conclude the Transdisciplinary forum with challenging questions to researchers. What does happen when science meets politics and practices? How could researchers contribute to public policy debates? What are the major challenges that the social economy and social enterprises are facing today and how could researchers help the stakeholders to tackle them. To answer these questions, we invited Sarah De Heusch, the newly appointed director of Social Economy Europe since May 2023.

Sarah De Heusch started by presenting Social Economy Europe, an important network at the international level aimed at fostering the development of social economy in Europe, addressing issues such as fair and green transitions, democratic governance, teaching democracy, financial literacy, social clauses in public procurements, etc. Such network requires research to improve the

understanding of what are the social economy, cooperatives and social enterprises, to provide evidence and data on their role in tackling societal challenges. It also needs research to give tools to change discourses and narratives while building new imaginaries. Lastly, research is essential to co-construct knowledge and policy frameworks with input from researchers and practitioners. She also insisted on the importance of making research results more visible and accessible to all. In brief, Sarah De Heusch put on the table a huge and stimulating agenda for research!

SEMI-PLENARY 1: SE in transformation

Keynote speakers: Zarah Bruhn - Commissioner for Social Innovation & founder/ CEO of socialbee (Germany) and **Sven Giegold** - State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Germany)

Chairs: Marthe Nyssens (UCL, Belgium), **Nicole Göler von Ravensburg** (FRA-UAS, Germany)

After Nicole welcomed the panel and briefly explained the evolution of the diversified Social and Solidarity Economy in Germany, Sven Giegold outlined the strategy on social innovation and



enterprises for the common good to be tabled by both ministries the next day. It is to put SSE organizations on par with for profit organizations in their access to start-up assistance, finance and procurement in order for them to better contribute to a transition towards a social-ecological market economy. In her input Zarah Bruhn, a social entrepreneur herself, emphasized the need to render careers in SE as much social recognition as those in capitalist corporations or technology unicorns. In answer to the question Marthe had posed as to the “radical questions to be asked” (Maja Göpel), she focussed on the need for impact measurement, however simplified approaches might still be. Sven Giegold explained that political logic demand that both, SE practices and research each form alliances which can lobby for their interests. Interacting with the audience both gave valuable hints as to possible cooperations between their ministries and scientists.

Marthe summarized four main points from the debate: An economically active civil society is important; any comprehensive transition ahead needs legal measures; education in universities and schools as well as new role models; that social impact data is difficult to attain but will remain a key for the political agenda.



SEMI-PLenary 2: SE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE TRANSITION AGENDA

Keynote speakers: **Mario Diani** - University of Trento & EURICSE (Italy) and **Luciane Lucas dos Santos** - Coimbra University (Portugal)

Chair: **Silvia Ferreira** - Coimbra University (Portugal)



CLOSING PLENARY SESSION: The repercussions of the consolidation of social economy and social enterprise policy for research

Keynote speakers: **Giulio Pasi**, Social and Sustainable Investments, European Commission; **Susanne Westhausen**, Cooperatives Europe & Kooperationen (Denmark); and **Ilcheyong Yi**, UNRISD & UN Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy

Chair: **Mary O'Shaughnessy**, UCC (Ireland)

An engaging and highly interactive plenary session on the repercussions of the consolidation of social economy and social enterprise policy for research was chaired by Dr. Mary O'Shaughnessy (UCC) and included an experienced and interesting panel including Dr. Giulio Pasi of Social and Sustainable Investments (European Commission), Mrs. Susanne Westhausen of Cooperatives Europe and Kooperationen (Denmark) and Dr. Ilcheyong Yi, UNRISD & UN Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy. Each of the guest contributors shared their well-founded, international experience of social economy, cooperatives, social enterprise and related policies. This was accompanied by a though provoking exchange between the panellists and the audience on the importance of aligning better the interests of practice, policy and research for the future development of social enterprises.

The title of the plenary session was the repercussions of the consolidation of social economy and social enterprise policy for research. The panellists discussed how the social and solidarity economy



continues to grow globally. A central theme to emerge was an unanimous acknowledgment of the importance of empirical research in designing appropriate policy to realise the potential of social enterprises to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive development through tackling societal challenges.



Opportunities for participants

Book signing event

A total of five books recently published were presented during the conference. The event was very popular and drew lots of attention from participants, who were able to exchange directly with the authors and get their copies signed. The list below includes the five books presented with the author(s) present at the event as well as a link where complete information can be found.

SOCIAL ECONOMY SCIENCE

Book editors: Gorgi Krlev, Dominika Wruk, Giulio Pasi, and Marika Bernhard

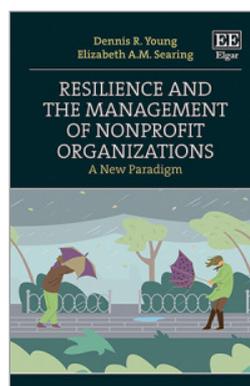
Year: 2023

Lack of progress in the area of global sustainable development and difficulties in crisis management highlight the need to transform the economy and find new ways of making society more resilient. The social economy is increasingly recognized as a driver of such transformations; it comprises traditional forms of cooperative or solidarity-based organizations alongside new phenomena such as impact investing or social tech ventures that aim to contribute to the public good. Social Economy Science provides the first comprehensive analysis of why and how social economy organizations create superior value for society. The book draws on organizational theory and transition studies to provide a systematic perspective on complex multi-stakeholder forms of action. It discusses the social economy's role in promoting innovation for impact, as well as its role as an agent of societal change and as a partner to businesses, governments, and citizens.

Open access: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/social-economy-science-9780192868343>



Rocío Nogales Muriel and Anne-Karen Hueske, book contributors at 9EMESconf



RESILIENCE AND THE MANAGEMENT OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: A NEW PARADIGM

Authors: Elizabeth Searing and Dennis Young

About this book: This timely book examines how nonprofits can prepare for and respond to serious

threats, such as pandemics, economic recessions, terrorist attacks and other potentially catastrophic events. Reliant on donors, regulators, government funders and dedicated staff and volunteers, nonprofits are often vulnerable and unprepared to navigate such crises.

Web access: <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/usd/resilience-and-the-management-of-nonprofit-organizations-9781800889729.html>

SOCIAL INNOVATION, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND THE CULTURAL ECONOMY

Author: Rocío Nogales Muriel

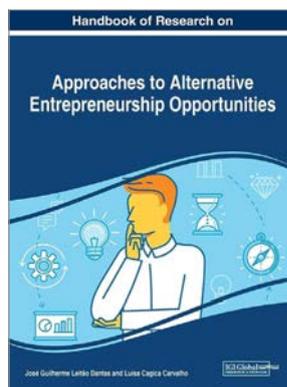
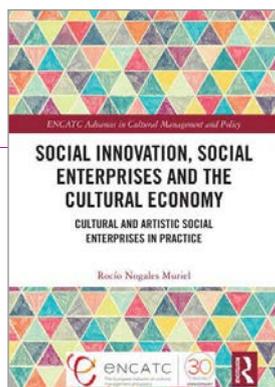
Publisher: Routledge

Year: 2023

About this book:

This new book “Social Innovation, Social Enterprises and the Cultural Economy” is now available as part of the new ENCATC Advances in Cultural Management and Policy series. With insights from sociology, economics, and cultural management and policy, this book aims to chronicle the journey of SMART – a cultural and artistic social enterprise now present in eight European countries – in order to illustrate such an organisation’s efforts to achieve its potential for social innovation and transformation. The debates presented will be relevant to scholars and students across disciplines, policymakers at both EU and national levels, practitioners and social activists.

Web access: <https://www.routledge.com/Social-Innovation-Social-Enterprises-and-the-Cultural-Economy-Cultural/Muriel/p/book/9781032378299>



HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON APPROACHES TO ALTERNATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Authors: Irene Dobarrio Machado Ciccarino & Susana Cristina Serrano Fernandes Rodrigues

Publisher: IGI Global

About this book: The chapter by authors seeks to understand what motivates an investment in a social entrepreneurial initiative (SEI), in order to ease the fit between investors goals and the SEI proposals. It provides a benchmark for investors and a guide for entrepreneurs through the identification of the most valued investment criteria. Data were collected online between March and May 2019 from Schawb foundation, Skoll foundation, Ashoka and Yunus Social Business. It was analyzed by content analysis. The results obtained corroborate previous literature review as well as highlighted different perspectives, suggesting further research for a better understanding where theory can improve practice. This study contributes to a theoretical consolidation of social entrepreneurship research field by means of the identification of common points among the practice of global organizations and the theory. Exploring social entrepreneurship is important because it is a new way of doing business and delivering social value and maybe the better bet to achieving a more sustainable society.

Link: <https://www.igi-global.com/book/handbook-research-approaches-alternative-entrepreneurship/234656>



HANDBUCH GENOSSENSCHAFTSWESEN

Book editors: Johannes Blome-Drees, Nicole Göler von Ravensburg, Alexander Jungmeister, Ingrid Schmale, Frank Schulz-Nieswandt

About this book: Methoden und Herangehensweisen an Fragen des Genossenschaftswesens - für Studierende.

Grundlagen, Methoden der Erkenntnisgewinnung und verschiedene Forschungsrichtungen - für Wissenschaftler.

Genossenschaftliches Wirtschaften, wissenschaftliche Konzeptionen der anwendungsorientierte Genossenschaftswissenschaft - für Praktiker.

Link: <https://link.springer.com/referencework/10.1007/978-3-658-18639-5>

Visits to local social enterprises

Traditional or young start up, large or small, engaged in a wide range of fields – Rhein-Main region is home to a variety of social enterprises. On Thursday, the following three SEs were visited by participants of the conference. They had the opportunity to get to know the work done in the social enterprise, the values which drive each SE and the people who keep it running.

Die Kooperative

<https://diekooperative.de/>

Die Kooperative started in 2018 and is a cooperative active in urban farming and supply of biological food to households. It is aiming to build a decentralized supply chain, closer links between city dwellers and urban and rural producers, more transparency for the consumer and democratic, communal decision-making structures independent of monetary contribution.

Members receive fresh organic and seasonal vegetables once a week – coming either from the cooperatives own fields quite near the city centre, or from affiliated regional farms. As consumers, they choose from a range of boxes different in size and composition containing their share of seasonal harvest of fruit, vegetable, chickens, eggs, noodles (made from the cooperatives own eggs) bread, honey and fruit juices. The boxes are delivered by bicycle to one of currently 28 depot stations, where members then fetch their order. Members can partake in the work and decision making, thus influencing the development of the vision.

The Coop also run a Bistro each in two suburbs and have started a vegetarian/vegan Catering Business.

Members can also hire a small parcel of agricultural land including tilling services from the Coop and then decide for themselves what they want to plant there for their own use. And, of course, all cooperative members can partake in the work and decision making, thus influencing the development of the vision.



In its core business, agriculture, it employs three fulltime gardeners as well as several part-timers for packaging. The boxes are largely cycled to the depots by volunteer members.

frankfurtersalon

<https://www.frankfurtersalon.de/>

In the middle of the 19th century, Clotilde Koch from Frankfurt taught liberal, free-thinking politicians how to talk to each other in the first democratic salon. However, the later, flourishing salon culture in the European metropolises was only a place for bourgeois and artistic elites to meet and exchange ideas.

frankfurtersalon revives the original, democratic, inclusive idea of salon. It is situated right in the heart of the “Old New Town” buzzing with and open to tourists, passers-by, new and old citizens, but also to people on the margins. frankfurtersalon makes safe, cozy, civic space available to everyone - everyone’s second living room. A space for conversation, debate, sharing, friends and strangers in contact, it renews and cultivates the art of listening.



In the evenings, frankfurtersalon also offers a mosaic of Frankfurt and regional art and culture in a small format on two stages. People who have not yet had access to Frankfurt's cultural diversity are also invited to attend. The events whet the appetite and encourage people to discover more culture for themselves.

frankfurtersalon is a non-profit social enterprise that employs and trains people with disabilities or in social need. This also applies to the other SEs owned by Frankfurter Verein für Soziale Heimstätten e.V. (started in 1910 to assist homeless people, people with psychiatric problems and women in crisis situations) such as basaglia (coffee roasters), roter hamm (production of biological apple juices and Äppelwoi) and druckwerkstatt rödelheim (a printers workshop). The Frankfurter Verein für Soziale Heimstätten is a member of the Deutsche Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband e.V.

Struwwelpeter Museum

<https://www.struwwelpeter-museum.de/en/>

A museum dedicated to the world-famous "Struwwelpeter", in English known as Shock-headed Peter, and its author, the versatile Frankfurt physician Dr. Heinrich Hoffmann. Hoffmann was a reformer of psychiatry in the 19th century. Struwwelpeter Museum is an inclusive non-profit enterprise, where people with and without disabilities work and products made in workshops for disabled people are being sold. Acceptance, the dismantling of prejudices, and the integration of the mentally ill and handicapped into society are the goals of this SE's work.

Colourful, informative and entertaining for all age groups, the exhibition presents the versatile Frankfurt doctor and author Dr. Heinrich Hoffmann (1809-1894). His work comes alive in portraits, letters, sketches and first editions. Visitors get to know Heinrich Hoffmann as a psychiatric reformer, socially and politically active citizen, humorous poet, loving family man and convinced Frankfurter. Rare book exhibits, parodies, kitsch and art tell of the worldwide distribution of his picture book. The permanent exhibition is supplemented by special exhibitions on cultural history and children's literature.

The SE is owned by the frankfurter werkgemeinschaft e.V., an NPO with broadly



diversified, largely professionalized social work in rehabilitation, inclusion, and care of the mentally ill and handicapped. Since its founding in 1967, the frankfurter werkgemeinschaft e.V. has been a corporate member of the Caritasverband.

Social Events and PhD Gathering

Conference Dinner

The Conference dinner was held at the Frankfurt SAALBAU. It was unusual and interesting venue since it was located one of the four biggest railway and underground stations in Frankfurt station. This building was constructed in 1914 in Neo-Classisitic style. It was placed under monument protection in the seventies of the last century. Also it is worth to mention that the Saalbau-company was started in 1861 as a shareholding company by engaged citizens to answer the manifold wishes of the population for public meeting places. After World War II, it was transformed into a limited Company. Today, Saalbau GmbH is a City-owned company holding 30 different public venues with almost double as many halls throughout the City. Anyone can hire these locations, civic associations having priority and making up for more than 60% of usage-time. Frankfurt's Saalbau contributes a great deal to social life in this city.

Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA)

For its 20th anniversary celebration, EMES created a Lifetime Achievement Award. EMES



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has lived through the last 20 years, not only as an organization but most importantly, as an interconnected and mutually supportive community. Thanks to our institutional and individual members, who sustained EMES through different strategies, our funders and our supporters, the network was able to make a contribution to our societies through scientific work. To celebrate this, a Lifetime Achievement was installed for the first time. On the third day of conference, during the dinner, Professor Carlo Borzaga, Professor Jacques Defourny, Professor Isabel Vidal, Professor Marguerite (Margie) Mendell, Professor Victor Pestoff and Professor Roger Spear were honoured and awarded with trophies.

It was a moving ceremony to recognize the outstanding scientific contribution of the 6 awardees to the SE field and to the EMES community and the wider Network. In the end, EMES is not only a scientific but a human community that continues to thrive after 20 years of collective effort!

PhD Event

The EMES PhD Network gathered during the 9th EMES annual conference in September in Frankfurt, seizing the opportunity to be in person to strengthen collaboration, networking among peers, and community engagement. The newly elected PhD representative, Juliana Rodrigues, was announced during the meeting, taking the lead from Kerryn Krige, who has led the PhD Network for the last two years. Alongside Juliana, a group of PhD students is dedicated to serving the community in the next two years, having Bart Leyen, Eva Van Mensel, and Violeta Bouzada as community facilitators in the PhD Committee. During the first introductory meeting PhD students from various backgrounds shared their expectations in terms of training, topics of interest, and community-building sessions.



“The community facilitated by EMES, bringing together doctoral candidates with aligned research interests, holds significant value for our doctoral journeys. The opportunities for shared moments are crucial to cultivating our collective sense of community, strengthening collaboration as the hallmarks of EMES and an enabler for us to make meaningful contributions to the field.”

Juliana Rodrigues
EMES PhD representative

Collective reading

As part of the collective work done within the EMES Culture and Arts and Social Enterprise (CASE) Affinity Group, there is the willingness to bring a more in-depth arts-based reflection about our own research practice. For the first time, SE researchers worked to compile a theatrical-poetic composition entitled “CASE Constellations” combining pieces from well-known authors and self-authored texts including five different languages (English, Finnish, Maltese, Portuguese, and Spanish).

Together, a part of the CASE Affinity Group performed a shared reading during the 9th EMES Conference on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 from 17:15 to 18:00. We have included the opening part of this composition an excerpt as well as some images of the performance but the full text is available on the page of the conference.

Opening

KAI: We seek another way of making sense of social enterprise.

ANY*: After all, ‘the forming of the five senses is a labor of the entire history of the world down to the present’¹

ANY: But we’re nothing without a good story.

ANY: We’re listening for stories across all the forms imaginable.

ANY:
we are a sacred space
in which arises, every day,
the future of the past²

KAI: We’re listening for: ‘four styles of writing

ROCÍO: the poem for water

LINDA: the personal letter for air

NIINA: the diary for earth

SILVIA: and the manifesto for fire³

CENSU: All arranged in a constellation.

1 Marx 1987
2 R. Nogales Muriel & M. Vizcaíno, June 2022 (translated)
3 Hjorth and Stayaert 2009



ANY: Because ‘ideas are to objects as constellations are to stars’⁴

ANY:
And as the Okanagan storyteller Jeannette Armstrong reminds us, “Through my language I understand I am being spoken to, I’m not the one speaking.

ANY: “I am a listener to the language’s stories, and when my words form I am merely retelling the same stories in different patterns”

* Whenever the script indicates ANY, the line was spoken by other conference participants.

4 Walter Benjamin

Conference Best Paper Awards

The EMES Network traditionally awards the best papers at each conference. The two winning papers were selected among 170 papers presented.

EMES Best Paper Award- Researcher category

The paper "Ownership Structure over the Business Cycle: Evidence from France" by Shervin Karimi, Simon Cornee, and Veronique Thelen from the Center for Research in Economics and Management (CREM) at the University of Rennes (France) was selected as the "Best Conference Paper". This paper is now available as part of the EMES Selected Conference Papers.



"This paper provides new evidence on the comparative behaviour of the third sector and the for-profit sector over the business cycle. Third-sector organizations, typically made up of non-profit organizations and cooperatives, have an ownership structure distinct from for-profit firms. However, little is known about the third sector's sensitivity to economic fluctuations. Using a novel French dataset over the 2000-2019 period that allows us to differentiate the two sectors, we examine their respective behaviour in terms of the number of establishments and employment. Our results show that the cyclical sensitivity of the third sector and its two main subgroups are systematically lower than the for-profit sector. These patterns are independent of the business cycle and the sector size variable used. Our analysis essentially shows that organizations with democratic governance and a limited profit distribution constraint have a lower sensitivity to changes in economic conditions. The EMES conference and this award confirm that SEs are a vibrant and inspiring field of research for finding solutions at various levels to contemporary socio-ecological challenges."

EMES Best Paper – PhD category

The "Best Conference Paper Award" distinguishes a PhD category that emphasizes the work of researchers in the initial phases of their careers. The 9th EMES Conference's "Best Paper Award" winner in the PhD category is Ludger Voigt for his paper: "Human Resource Management in Co-operatives – A Systematic Literature Review", co-authored with Dietrich Von Der Oelsnitz.

Ludger Voigt is a PhD student from the Technical University of Braunschweig (Germany), and he shares with us his reaction:



"Our paper conducts a systematic literature review on Human Resource Management in cooperatives, with three main objectives. First, it aims to synthesize and analyze the literature in the area of HRM in cooperatives to generate an HRM model that encompasses the specific characteristics of cooperatives. Second, to discuss the findings in the context of sustainable HRM in order to investigate the extent to which HRM policies and practices in cooperatives can contribute toward sustainable development. Third, to extend our synthesis and contribute to advancing cooperative literature concerning HRM by

identifying future research directions. The study's key finding is that the unique features of cooperatives, such as membership and adherence to cooperative values, significantly shape the HRM model, with employment security emerging as a central HRM policy that influences practices and outcomes at individual, organizational, and societal levels. While we can't represent the entire field of SE scholarship, receiving this award is a strong motivator for our team. It signifies our commitment to continue exploring this topic, and the recognition it brings greatly motivates us. This award demonstrates that our work in areas such as cooperatives and sustainability is not only worthwhile but also well-received and supported. We hope to see more research on HRM in cooperatives, particularly focusing on sustainable development. Thank you very much!"

If you want to read awarded papers, [click here.](#)

9th EMES Selected Conference Papers

In addition, a total of 9 papers have been added to the EMES Selected Conference Papers which you can find listed [here](#):

- ✍️ “Social enterprises: A new organization for development What are they? How do they work? What objectives do they pursue? How do they hold up and who do they relate to?” *Author: Percy Bobadilla*
- ✍️ “The Impact of Social Enterprises and Social Entrepreneurship on Poverty Eradication: Case Studies from Spain, Egypt, and Lebanon” *Authors: Vincent Caruana and Sana El Sayegh*
- ✍️ “Social development through organizational development? Innovative organization of cooperation between social and cultural enterprises in the “kHaus” Basel” *Authors: Madeleine Grauer and Marc E. Zimmermann*
- ✍️ “Innovative Offerings and Isomorphic Pressures” *Author: Sophie Hunt*
- ✍️ “A study on the value co-creation process of cooperatives - Focus on the SDL (Service Dominant Logic)” *Authors: Yoobin Lee and Sanghoon Lee*
- ✍️ “Social enterprises’ role in social services innovation process: the case of Romania” *Author: Iona Prodan*
- ✍️ “Supporting sustainable transition of financial sector through information-based governance initiative involving niche actors” *Authors: David Romain, Virginie Xhaufclair and Sybille Mertens*
- ✍️ “The production of enduring musical culture and the system of music schools in Trentino” *Author: Silvia Sacchetti*
- ✍️ “Conditions for Transitioning Toward a New Urban Politics in Türkiye via Transformative Practices of Social Cooperatives” *Author: Bahar Yalçın*

UNTFSSSE Awarded Papers on Social and Solidarity Economy and SDGs

EMES collaborated with the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) and UNRISD to recognize and promote the research on topics related to SSE and the SDGs.

We are excited to announce that the paper *“Uneven contexts and issues in impact measurement for the social and solidarity economy”* by **Andrea Salustri, Silvia Saccetti and Maria Alessandra Antonelli** was awarded in the researcher category.

In the PhD category, the paper *“Silent Conformity: An Institutional Theory Perspective on the Relationship between Social Enterprises and the SDGs”* by **Simon Meert and Frederic Dufays** was awarded.

Both awards were given in memory of the famous 20th-century American activist, Mrs Ana Maria O’Neil, initiated by the UNTFSSSE and UNRISD, the implementing agency of the UNTFSSSE Knowledge Hub, in collaboration with its members and observers, including EMES.

The awarded papers are included in the [UNTFSSSE Knowledge Hub](#) on SDGs with a worldwide reach and large visibility.



Event promotion

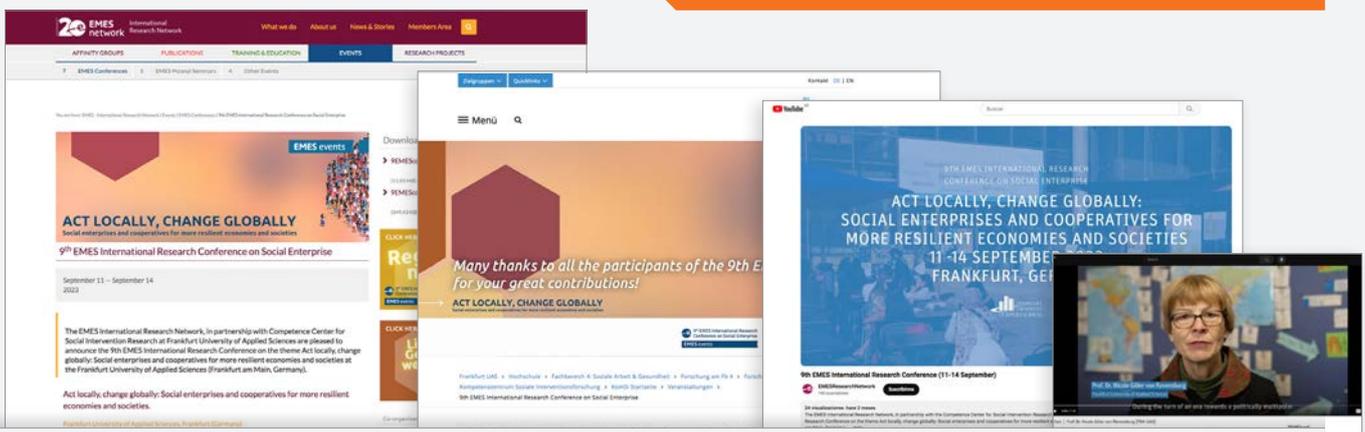


Following the experience of previous EMES Conferences, posters and promotional material were produced only in electronic versions. We went completely paperless for the first time. Our promotional material was distributed via email to members and interested stakeholders to promote the #9EMESconf.



Besides, news about the Conference was included regularly in the EMES News Alert, and we had specially dedicated News Alert with Conference news, which was distributed to all subscribers. In addition, promotional material was posted on the social media, mainly Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Also, we were very active on the EMES Blog&News section, sharing all relevant information on venue, participants, topics, deadlines, etc.

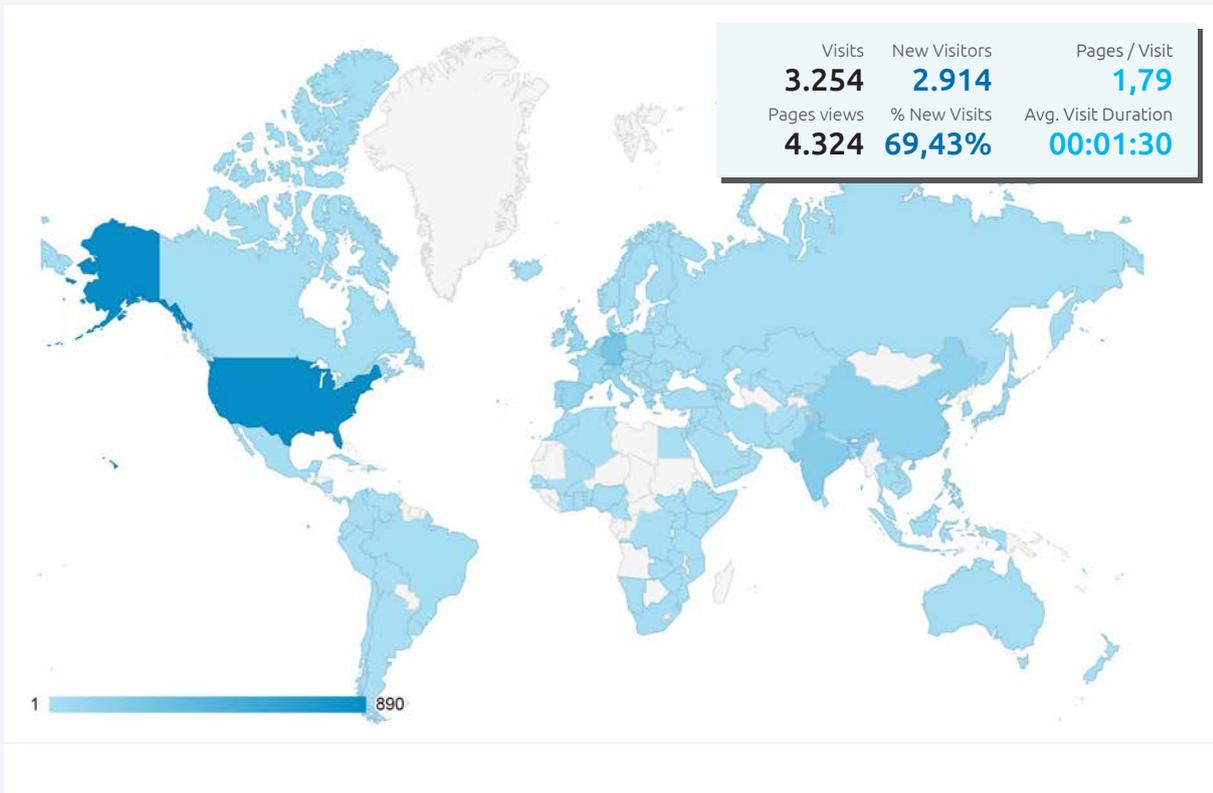
Check out the #9EMESconf Video on our YouTube channel!



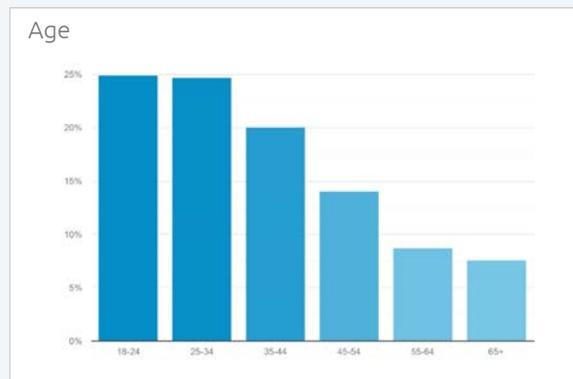
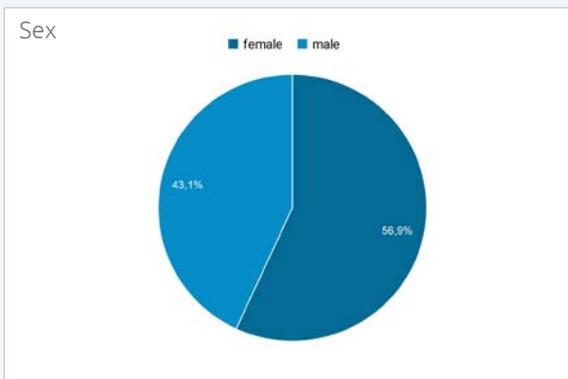
Social Media Report

Map Overlay

www.emes.net
June 01, 2023 - September 15, 2023



Demographic data



Visits by County

Main 9 countries

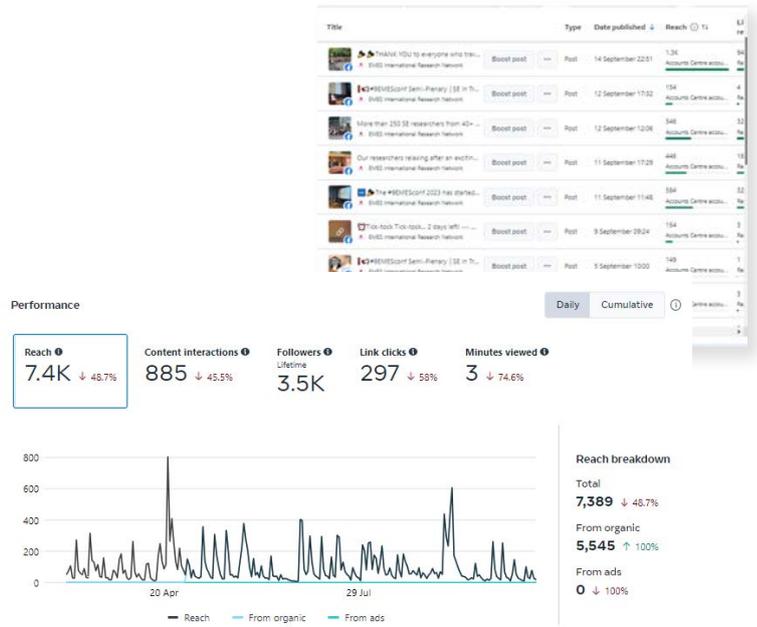
United States	890	China	155	Spain	101
Germany	281	Belgium	108	United Kingdom	98
India	191	Italy	102	France	67

Source
Google Analytics

CONFERENCEHASHTAGS: #9EMESconf #ActLocallyChangeGlobally

Facebook

We follow the results of social networks since March 1 until October 28, 2023. We have reached more than 7000 visits on our Facebook page. Furthermore, the greatest interest in the conference was on September 15, during the event. Many publications addressed the attention of the audiences. Here, you can see some of them.

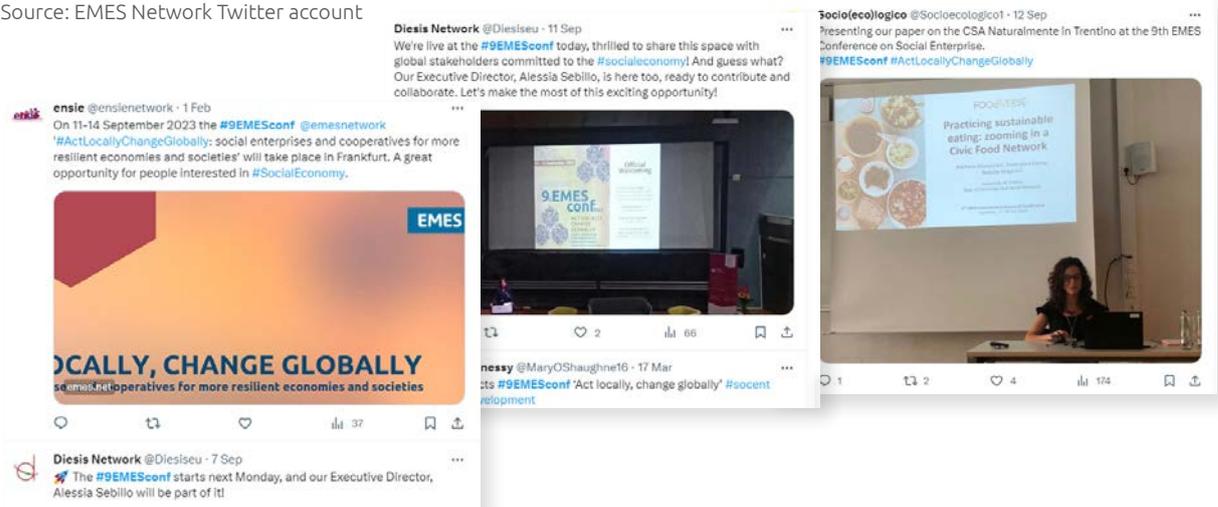


Source: Facebook page of EMES International Research Network

Twitter

EMES's Twitter account had more than 30.000 impressions during the conference period. We gathered around 17000 new visits and generated engagements from the audience by sharing news on #9EMESconf!

Source: EMES Network Twitter account

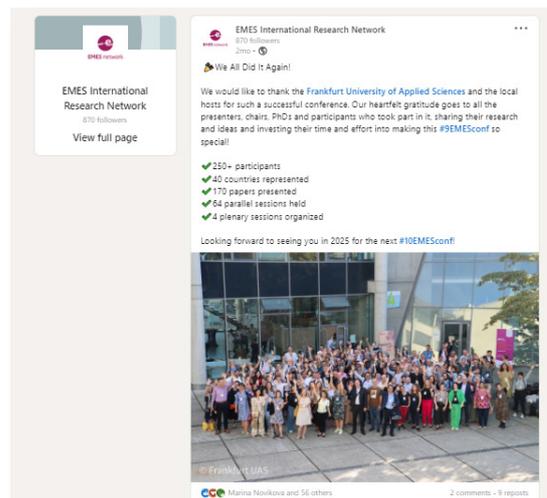


LinkedIn

From 564 followers we have grown to 870 during the year of the 9EMESconf! Our profile was most visited on September 12, the second day of the conference.

564 followers **↑ 870** followers

December 5th 2022 September 15th 2023





Participants' evaluation

■ Please rank the following aspects of this event based on how important they are to you

- 1 Networking with other researchers active in the SE field
- 2 Presenting my current research
- 3 Having access to quality content and news from the SE field
- 4 Learning from experts in the field

■ What did you like best about this Conference?

Conference dinner and dancing, the friendly atmosphere among the attendees, the constructive feedback and questions in sessions.

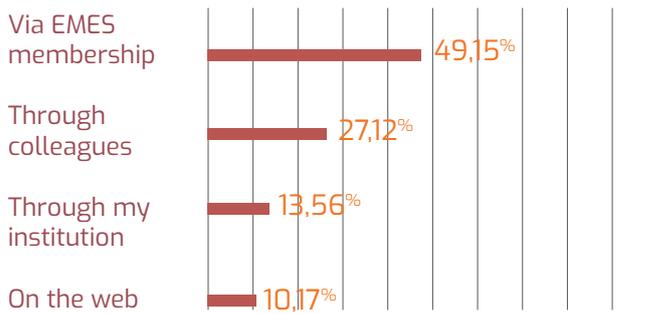
9EMESconf participant



Percy Bobadilla Díaz, Principal Professor and Researcher - Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

"It is the first time I have attended this event. From a university colleague I learned that it had been going on for several years. Participating in this 9th EMES has been a very rewarding experience. Meeting various colleagues who work on social entrepreneurship issues and verifying the richness of the theoretical and methodological approaches and especially the findings presented show the importance of this type of organizations to achieve a more equitable and environmentally responsible society. My desire is to be part of this network of professionals, contributing my knowledge and experience. Congratulations to the entire team that made this international seminar a reality."

How did you hear about this event?



Have you attended any EMES events before?



What do you think we could improve for future EMES International Conferences?

More workshops and diverse ways of relating/experimenting with ideas.

9EMESconf participant



Nobuko Nishina, professor from Kumamoto Gakuen University (Japan)

"I attended the 9th EMES conference for the first time in September 2023, and I enjoyed an excellent experience meeting many distinguished guests. I have been interested in why community-based activities and social enterprises are created and what they mean, as I am currently researching how the welfare state is changing with diverse actors such as Social Enterprise and Solidarity Economy. I have read and studied papers and books by Prof. Pestoff, Prof. Borzaga, and many other scholars during this research.

One of the highlights of the conference was that I was able to meet in person many researchers whom I only had known from books through my research and I was also able to interview Prof. Vidal in person. It also allowed me the opportunity to have frank discussions with the participants from all over the world during the breaks.

It is also worth mentioning that I was impressed by the efficient management of the conference.

First of all, environmental concern was taken seriously: for example. the participation card was tied with a hemp cord, the bus ticket was included, and it was paperless, and moreover, the administration was very helpful and flexible.

The success of the 9th EMES conference was due to not only all the participant contributions but also by the people who managed the event behind the scenes. Thank you very much to everyone!"

Monika Klimowicz, Individual researcher from University of Wroclaw (Poland)

"One of the most exciting things about taking part in the EMES conference is meeting people full of passion. It is incredible how many interesting research ideas you can share with EMES members. The 9th EMES conference was a great opportunity to share ideas and research with people who truly understand what social economy is. I was also a great pleasure to chair a panel dedicated to the social economy ecosystem. It was full of great speakers and papers."

EMES is about community, knowledge, belonging, care and enthusiasm

EMES conferences are all about meeting with great people and researchers, sharing ideas and knowledge, and transmitting the core values we believe in.

So, a meeting such as this one in Frankfurt was an unforgettable experience of gathering and sharing as intellectual and human community. This year we worked hard with KomSI and FRA-UAS team on organizing the conference in detail, and it was a great experience. In that manner we wanted to immensely thank all the team and all supporters and those who contribute to the conference.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to:

- ✍ Photography and video: Lothar Eichhorn and Paulin Krause.
- ✍ Communication & design: Guiomar Sánchez Mill & David Rodríguez (Culbuks, design and web presence) and Lea Sophie Roth on behalf of local organizing team FRA-UAS
- ✍ Social media support: EMES Coordination Unit
- ✍ Local event support: Azadeh Fathi



Lothar Eichhorn, FRA-UAS photographer

"During the conference, I was really impressed by the passion and fun with which the participants want to advance social entrepreneurship. And I was particularly touched by the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award: the reaction of the award winners showed that the topic is truly a life's work for those honored."

We thank our partners for making it
such a pleasure to work together!



On-site team

Our sincere gratitude goes to the local on-site team without whose help this all would not be possible.

- ✍ Jana Ammann
- ✍ Peggy Auerbach
- ✍ Andrea Fajardo Duque
- ✍ Anrie Eric Geeb
- ✍ Leonie Gramatins
- ✍ Annabel Jäckel
- ✍ Hannah Krugmann
- ✍ Johanna Mack
- ✍ Ben Mettlach
- ✍ Anna Nolte
- ✍ Lilly Vullhorst



Jana Ammann, FRA-UAS (Germany)

“Coordinating the on site support team of 9th EMES Conference was an incredibly rewarding experience - four days of adrenaline rush to provide a welcoming and professional environment for the international participants with a great, cooperative and amazingly motivated team we built on the spot. Also, I will never forget preparing cheese bites for a welcome drink hosting about two hundred people in the midst of chaos, organization and a twelve hour day.”

Past conferences

- The 1st EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise in Trento (Italy) was held in 2001
- The 2nd EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprises was held in Trento (Italy) in 2009
- The 3rd EMES International Conference in Roskilde (2011) called "Social Innovation through Social Entrepreneurship in Civil Society", was hosted by the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in Roskilde (Denmark)
- The 4th EMES International Research Conference (2013), entitled "If not for profit, for what? And how?", was hosted by the Centre for Social Economy in Liege (Belgium)
- The 5th EMES International Research Conference in 2015 "Building a scientific field to foster social enterprise eco-system", was hosted by FinSERN in Helsinki (Finland)
- The 6th EMES International Research Conference held in 2017 was entitled "Social enterprise and sustainable societies", hosted by CIRTES in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)
- The 7th EMES International Research Conference held in 2019, "Sustainable development through social enterprise, co-operative and voluntary action", hosted by SHU in Sheffield (United Kingdom)
- The 8th EMES International Research Conference held in 2021, "Bringing principles and values to renew action" was hosted by the GESES research group from the University of Zaragoza (Spain)

[check here](#)



Next gathering

9th EMES Summer Training School

The next PhD summer school will take place in Trento (Italy) starting from 30 June to 4th July and it will be co-organized by our network and EMES institutional member Euricse, supported by the EU project ESIC.

This exciting opportunity is aimed for PhD students and early-career researchers offering a unique chance to deepen knowledge on social and solidarity economy and social innovation.



If you have ideas or suggestions when preparing the next EMES conference in 2025, please get back to us via:

9emesconf@emes.net

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