

Social enterprise for sustainable societies

CALL FOR PAPERS

July 3-6, 2017

Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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I. Conference rationale

The EMES International Research Network, in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Work, State and Society (CIRTES, Université catholique de Louvain) and the Belgian Interuniversity Attraction Pole on Social Enterprise (IAP-SOCENT), is pleased to announce the 6th EMES International Research Conference on the theme "**Social enterprise for sustainable societies**", which will take place on July 3-6, 2017, at the Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).

EMES has held major international conferences since 2001. The Network gathers 13 established university research centres and over 250 individual researchers from more than 50 countries, whose goal has been to gradually build up an international corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodologies, around "SE" concepts: social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, social economy, solidarity economy.

CIRTES is one of the founders of the EMES Network. It has built up a strong expertise on SE organisations in European and Southern contexts, analysing their socio-economic logics and their expression through public policies, the market and civil society in various fields such as work integration, care, social finance, commons and the popular economy.

IAP-SOCENT is a consortium of four Belgian research centres, gathered under the title “If Not for Profit, for What? And How?”, and supported by the Belgian Science Policy Office from 2012 to 2017. It includes the *Centre for Social Economy* (CES, University of Liege), the *Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Travail, État et Société* (CIRTES, Université catholique de Louvain), the *Centre Européen de Recherche en Microfinance* (CERMi, Université Libre de Bruxelles) and the *Department of Applied Economics* (APEC, Vrije Universiteit Brussel). Within this consortium, around 45 faculty members and researchers in economics, management, sociology and psychology have jointly developed an interdisciplinary and integrated knowledge on social entrepreneurship and social enterprise.

The aim of this 6th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise is to be one of the world's central meeting places for all researchers involved in social enterprise, social entrepreneurship and social and solidarity economy research across the globe.

II. Thematic lines and conveners

Can social enterprise help overcome the current crises? Issues such as growing social inequalities, massive unemployment, lack of economic democracy and environmental unsustainability have increased the global expectations from social enterprises. Each in its own way, governments, civil society actors, non-profit leaders and the business sector are seeking to discover, or rediscover, new possibilities for promoting economic approaches while targeting social aims. Indeed, examples of social enterprise and initiatives to support these experiences have multiplied dramatically.

However, do these innovative practices promote institutional economic diversity and democracy or do they contribute to the weakening of solidarity, through the marketization of society? And is their potential to address the major current and future economic, social, environmental and societal challenges fully understood?

Social enterprises naturally cross various types of borders, in terms of sectors (public, business, cooperative, and associative sectors), resources (drawing them from the market, public procurement and grants, volunteering, etc.) and activity fields. Their social mission usually marks the activity field where they operate, ranging from more traditional fields, such as access to social services and health or work integration, to the most innovative ones, such as social and ecological transition, social finance and culture.

In a truly worldwide and interdisciplinary perspective, this conference will discuss the challenges faced by social enterprises in this critical period and the opportunities they have to build sustainable societies. The conference will aim to bring together research communities from all over the world related to the third sector (non-profit sector, cooperatives, social economy, solidarity economy and civil society) and researchers working on social innovation, social entrepreneurship, the commons, sustainable transition, popular economy, etc.

In order to organize the discussion across fields and disciplines, the conference will be structured along the following 10 main thematic lines, each of them supported by various conveners:

1. Concepts and models of social enterprise worldwide

Conveners: **Jacques Defourny**, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)

Janelle A. Kerlin, Georgia State University (United States)

Yu-Yuan Kuan, National Chung Cheng University (Taiwan)

In spite of many efforts to find the best ways to define social enterprise, it is now widely acknowledged that the social enterprise phenomenon encompasses a wide diversity of conceptions and socio-economic realities that are generally embedded in local contexts. How to capture such diversity from conceptual and theoretical points of view? Is it possible to highlight major social enterprise models? If so, to what extent can some models be observed across many fields and geographical areas? Is it possible to identify varieties of social enterprise that are specific to some world regions like East Asia, South Asia, Latin America, parts of Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, or to some historical contexts, like post-communist regimes? From an empirical point of view, which methods have been developed in these perspectives?

2. Social innovation and social entrepreneurship

Conveners: **Benjamin Huybrechts**, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)

Taco Brandsen, Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands)

Lars Hulgård, Roskilde University (Denmark)

This theme aims to deepen the understanding of social entrepreneurship and social innovation, both within the social enterprise context and in a more general context of public policy, private enterprise and civil society. While there has been much work on the role of social innovation and entrepreneurship within the macro-level socio-economic landscape, less is known about why and how individuals, teams, communities and institutions at the micro level identify social needs and develop entrepreneurial solutions to pursue relevant opportunities. Therefore, this theme aims to shed light on the specific features of social innovation and entrepreneurship in terms of motivations (e.g. social, economic and political drivers), processes (e.g. collective entrepreneurship) and outcomes (e.g. different types of organizational creation). This theme welcomes various disciplines, theories and methods to explore social innovation and entrepreneurship in a variety of policy contexts and institutional arrangements, both within and beyond the third sector.

3. Governance, employment and human resource management

Conveners: **Francesca Petrella**, Aix-Marseille University (France)

Donatienne Desmette, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

Roland Pepermans, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

This thematic line aims to analyse if and how the specific governance system of social enterprises contributes to the move towards more sustainable societies. Social enterprises are often highlighted for their impact on employment in a context of massive unemployment and job insecurity. Many social enterprises indeed integrate people who are excluded from the labour market. However, beyond this work integration purpose, social enterprises may implement different working conditions, industrial relations and human resource

management practices (such as democratic governance and participative management) than the for-profit sector, which could help to move toward a more inclusive, fair and therefore sustainable society. In addition, participation of volunteers may be a distinctive element to consider. In this context, what are the determinants of workers' motivations and job satisfaction? Are they different from those that prevail in for-profit organizations? Does the mission of the organization matter? Does it concern all types of workers? What is the role of HRM practices? Proposals on these topics, on the role of the institutional environment or of the territorial context or on international comparisons of governance rules and principles are welcomed.

4. Financing issues for social enterprises, philanthropy and social finance

Conveners: **Anaïs Périlleux**, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

Marc Jegers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

Mary O'Shaughnessy, University College Cork (Ireland)

Social enterprises are characterised by a capacity to mobilise multiple sources of funding (market, state, private donors, etc.) and by a capital structure that differs from that of conventional for-profit enterprises; consequently, they also face specific financing issues. This thematic line will investigate the complexity and types of social enterprise's funding strategies, which have evolved through the most recent global financial crisis. It also aims to improve the understanding of the nature of the reciprocal relationship that social enterprises establish with their socially-motivated fund providers. While remaining a niche, the number of financial initiatives supporting social enterprises has risen and diversified dramatically in recent years. In parallel to financial intermediaries (such as social banks, social investment funds or microfinance institutions), more direct ways of financing social projects have been developed, such as social crowdfunding and venture philanthropy. The rapid expansion of those initiatives leaves us with many unanswered questions, including questions about how to ensure their sustainable development, avoid mission drift and prevent ill effects. This thematic line proposes to investigate the evolution of this emerging market, including its supply and demand dynamics.

5. Social impact, value creation and performance

Conveners: **Andrea Bassi**, AICCON & University of Bologna (Italy)

Sybille Mertens, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)

Nicole Göler von Ravensburg, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)

In the last decade, there has been an increasing and converging interest among policy makers, scholars and researchers, and third sector practitioners concerning the social added value that non-profit organizations and social enterprises create in society as a whole. There are many factors inducing a pressure on non-profit organizations and social enterprises towards the adoption of assessment systems for the evaluation of the (social) impact produced by their activities and programmes; among these factors, a key role is played by the economic and financial crisis that started at the end of the first decade of the 2000s, and by the consequent shrinkage of financial resources both for institutional donors (grant-making foundations) and public administration. There

are three main domains in which the research can improve substantially the knowledge of social value and social impact: 1) theory/epistemology around the question of “definition” (schools of thought, approaches, theories, paradigms); 2) methodology around the question of “metrics” (measurement, unit of measure, monetary vs. non-monetary); and 3) empirical enquiry and the question of “indicators” (quantitative vs. qualitative; tangible vs. intangible; objective vs. subjective). This thematic line welcomes contributions concerning each of the abovementioned research fields or interrelations among them.

6. Institutionalization, scaling up and public policies

Conveners: **Giulia Galera**, EURICSE (Italy)

Anna Ciepielewska-Kowalik, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)

Simon Teasdale, Glasgow Caledonian University (United Kingdom)

The development of social enterprise is both enabled and constrained by the complex relationships among various institutional factors. The availability and coverage of public services, the capacity of public policies to adapt to social enterprises’ role across a range of policy areas, political ideologies, interactions with for-profit companies and the broader economic environments, the strength of civil society, and cultural attitudes to entrepreneurship interact with each other over time, so that social enterprise evolves in different ways in different countries. Drawing on a multidisciplinary perspective, this thematic line will critically address a number of research questions, *inter alia*: What are the different growth and diffusion trajectories available to social enterprises? To what extent have new legal frameworks, designed specifically for social enterprises, succeeded in supporting the growth of the sector? What are the opportunities and challenges of scaling up and institutionalisation through cross-sector partnerships (with for-profit businesses, with public authorities, with other civil society actors)? What are the consequences of these partnerships and/or integration in public policies in terms of maintenance of social enterprises’ autonomy and ability to grasp new unmet needs? Do social enterprises contribute to the marketization of welfare? What is the role played by social enterprise networks in strengthening the self-organisation ability and recognition of the sector? What role have public funds (such as the EU ones) and private foundations played in sustaining the development and scaling up of social enterprises? To what extent are social enterprises constrained by/able to shape the institutional context across different countries?

7. Informal sector, popular economy, microfinance and development

Conveners: **Andreia Lemaître**, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

Marc Labie, Université de Mons (Belgium)

Luiz Inácio Gaiger, UNISINOS (Brazil)

In the South, there are plenty of economic initiatives characterized by entrepreneurial dynamics and not-for-profit aims. Many of them are rooted in the popular economy, which—outside of formal employment, social protection and conventional financial circuits—produces goods and services for the members and their families. The popular economy covers a large and varied segment of Southern economies. Some initiatives in this sector are sustained by microfinance dynamics. In several countries, since the 1990s, and with the

support of civil society intermediary structures (e.g. NGOs, trade unions, and churches), initiatives in the informal sector and popular economy have constituted social movements, which have fostered a recent process of institutionalisation of the initiatives and the development of public policies towards this field. Analyses around such themes, their contribution to development and the tensions involved in it are welcome.

8. Social enterprises, sustainable transition and common goods

Conveners: **Marek Hudon**, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

Tom Dedeurwaerdere, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

In this thematic line, two topics will be addressed. First, the potential of social enterprises active in various sectors to facilitate the transition to a sustainable society or economic system will be analysed, both in its social and ecological dimensions. In particular, the inclusion of the ecological dimension might lead to adjusting the variety of social economic models. Secondly, the emerging literature on social enterprises and common goods will be addressed. To counter-balance the commodification of natural resources and ecosystem services, the literature on the “commons” has promoted various non-market models based on collaboration/cooperation amongst economic actors. Over the last two decades, this literature has been extended to a variety of other goods that can be used and/or managed in common, such as knowledge, housing, mobility, food, etc. This thematic line will analyse whether social enterprises can contribute to the provision of such common goods. Which management mechanisms should be developed to this end?

9. Social and solidarity economy, civil society and social movements

Conveners: **Sílvia Ferreira**, University of Coimbra (Portugal)

Jean-Louis Laville, CNAM/LISE (France)

Geoffrey Pleyers, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

New institutional and theoretical boundaries are being challenged by the speed of societal change and social innovations, inter alia in the form of social enterprises. It can be suspected that concepts such as social movements, the social and solidarity economy, the third sector and civil society are no longer descriptive enough as containers for part of the realities that scholars are trying to account for, particularly as these emerge as a reaction of societies and people to times of crises. New articulations between the cultural, the social, the environmental or the economic are experimented and formulated as alternatives. The political dimensions of the social and solidarity economy and the third sector or the economic dimensions of civil society and social movements are coming to the fore in these social innovations, requiring new conceptual and theoretical articulations. This stream particularly welcomes empirical research and theoretical approaches that cross boundaries or/and articulate between concepts and theoretical frameworks such as social movements, social and solidarity economy, third sector or civil society. In searching for standpoints for this conceptual and theoretical dialogue, the different socio-historical meanings given to background concepts—such as politics, state, economy, society or community—might have to be brought to the fore.

10. Gender and diversity issues

Conveners: **Florence Degavre**, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Isabelle Guérin, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France)
Ariane Szafarz, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

Researchers in both gender studies and social entrepreneurship have observed the systematic over-representation of women in the workforce of social enterprises. Suggested explanations include women's pro-social inclinations and the women-friendly characteristics of social enterprises. In addition, some social enterprises put forward a gender-sensitive agenda. For instance, a substantial proportion of the microfinance institutions (but not all of them) prioritize serving female entrepreneurs. More critical views consider women's over-representation in social enterprises as a business case rather than a social case: poor working conditions would explain the presence of women in the workforce; greater obedience would explain, for instance, microfinance's preference for women. Overall, the link between SEs and gender issues deserves further scientific investigation, and this thematic line welcomes theoretical and empirical work addressing gender and microfinance, barriers and enablers for women in the enactment of social entrepreneurship and gender-conscious policies in social enterprises. The issue of diversity is also under-researched; in particular, research is needed to understand how social enterprises affect marginalised groups' lives (persons with disabilities; LGBTI persons; national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities), either as workers or as beneficiaries of social action. As sources of both economic value and social change, how do social enterprises impact the empowerment of marginalised groups?

III. Scientific committee

The Conference has two co-chairs, **Marthe Nyssens** (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and **Carlo Borzaga** (University of Trento/EURICSE, Italy). The members of the scientific committee include:

- Jo Barraket**, Swinburne University of Technology (Australia)
- Janelle A. Kerlin**, Georgia State University (United States)
- Andrea Bassi**, AICCON & University of Bologna (Italy)
- Avner Ben-Ner**, University of Minnesota (United States)
- Marie Bouchard**, UQAM (Canada)
- Taco Brandsen**, Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands)
- Anna Ciepielewska-Kowalik**, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)
- Kate Cooney**, Yale University (United States)
- Jacques Defourny**, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)
- Florence Degavre**, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

Donatienne Desmette, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Bernard Enjolras, Institute for Social Research (Norway)
Sílvia Ferreira, University of Coimbra (Portugal)
Luiz Inácio Gaiger, UNISINOS (Brazil)
Giulia Galera, EURICSE (Italy)
Nicole Göler von Ravensburg, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
Georgina Gómez, Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
Isabelle Guerin, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France)
Keith Hart, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
Marek Hudon, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)
Lars Hulgård, Roskilde University (Denmark)
Lesley Hustinx, Ghent University (Belgium)
Benjamin Huybrechts, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)
Marc Jegers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
Yu-Yuan Kuan, National Chung Cheng University (Taiwan)
Marc Labie, Université de Mons (Belgium)
Jean-Louis Laville, CNAM/LISE (France)
Andreia Lemaître, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Matsuyo Makino, Kansai Gaidai University (Japan)
Sybille Mertens, HEC-University of Liege (Belgium)
Alex Nicholls, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
Mary O'Shaughnessy, University College Cork (Ireland)
Roland Pepermans, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
Anaïs Périlleux, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Francesca Petrella, Aix-Marseille University (France)
Geoffrey Pleyers, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
P. K. Shajahan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India)
Ariane Szafarz, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)
Simon Teasdale, Glasgow Caledonian University (United Kingdom)
Dennis Young, Cleveland State University (United States)
Annette Zimmer, Münster University (Germany)

IV. Abstract submission

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

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

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

Abstract submission

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

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

Authors should submit their abstracts via the online submission system set up for the conference. To submit your abstract, go to <https://6emesconf.exordo.com/login> and follow the instructions (you will be required to setup an account first). Please note that submissions will be accepted ONLY via the online system: email submissions will not be accepted (except for panels; see below).

To submit a panel

Panel proposals—including the rationale of the panel, the full abstract for each author and the thematic line—are to be submitted via email (6emesconf@emes.net). Please note that panel proposals that do not include full abstracts and author information for each paper will not be considered. The person submitting the panel proposal must be willing to act as the panel coordinator and ensure that all proposed papers' presenters commit to attending the conference.

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

V. Conference registration

There are different types of registration available, depending on whether or not participants are members of EMES. Members, including PhD students and regular researchers, enjoy a reduced registration fee (a proof of enrolment in a PhD programme may be requested from PhD students registering for the event, if deemed necessary by the organisers). In addition, the organisers offer an **early-bird registration** fee for those participants who register by March 27, 2017. The registration fee covers all conference materials, three lunches, one evening gala reception and one dinner event.

Finally, thanks to some sponsors' support, the organisers are able to offer a subsidized fee that includes accommodation for three or four nights (starting on Monday, June 3, 2017) in on-campus residences; this subsidized fee is **reserved for non-OECD PhD students and non-OECD ICSEM researchers** who request it when registering and who have at least one accepted abstract. If you fall within one of these categories and are interested in requesting a subsidized fee, please see next section.

The different registration fees available are summarized in the table below:

	EMES member			Non-member		
	Subsidised fee (including accommodation)	PhD student	Regular participant	Subsidised fee (including accommodation)	PhD student	Regular participant
Early-bird fee (by 27 March)	250 €	300 €	350 €	300 €	375 €	550 €
Full fee	-	400 €	450 €	-	475 €	650 €

**THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PRESENTERS IS MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017;
FOR NON-PRESENTERS, IT IS THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017.**

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

Cancellation policy: Refunds will be possible for cancellations notified by written notice before **May 29, 2017**. A 50 € administrative fee will be charged. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after **May 29, 2017**.

VI. Available support

Thanks to the support of several partners and sponsors, we have been able to secure a number of accommodation spots in on-campus residences that will be offered in priority to non-OECD PhD students and non-OECD ICSEM researchers who apply for it and have a paper accepted for presentation in the conference. In order to apply for this accommodation support, you need to complete the *Request for financial support* form on the [conference page on emes.net](#). Please email the completed form preferably at the time of submitting your abstract and **by January 9th, 2017** at the latest in order to be considered. Please send your signed form as a PDF file in attachment to 6emesconf@emes.net.

No other financial aid is available for now, but the organisers can support authors with an accepted paper to mobilize local support with a letter of invitation. Please note that only authors who have formally been notified of a paper acceptance may require such letter.

VII. Getting there and accommodation

The Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve is 30 km away from Brussels and it is easily accessible by public transportation as well as by car. In order to assist participants preparing their trip, we have prepared a detailed document that explains how to reach the venue. You can download it on the [conference page on emes.net](#).

Regarding accommodation in Louvain-la-Neuve, the options available are limited, so you may consider staying in nearby towns, like Wavre and Ottignies, where special rates have been negotiated with several hotels if booked before April 30, 2017. Local transportation will be organized between these hotels and the campus (about 15 minutes). A document explaining the different accommodation options suggested by the organisers is available on the [conference page](#). We strongly suggest choosing one of these options although other alternatives in Brussels also exist.

On-campus residence accommodation may be available at a preferred rate for PhD students presenting a paper, depending on the number of non-OECD participants. The price for three or four nights (starting Monday, June 3rd) is 150€ (flat rate), with breakfast included. If you are a PhD student and are interested in this accommodation option, you will be able to indicate so when submitting your abstract. Available accommodation spots will be assigned later on based on the date of registration on a first-come first-served basis.

VIII. Important dates

October 3rd, 2016	Opening of abstract submission
January 9th, 2017	Abstract submission deadline
February 13th, 2017	Notification of acceptance/rejection to authors
February 15th, 2017	Opening of registration
March 27th, 2017	Deadline for early-bird registration at reduced fees
April 17th, 2017	Deadline for conference registration for presenters
June 5th, 2017	Deadline for full paper submission
June 15th, 2017	Deadline for conference registration for non-presenters

ALL PRESENTERS, INCLUDING ALL PANELISTS, MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE BY APRIL 17, 2017 IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR PRESENTATION SCHEDULED IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME.

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

For any questions about this conference, please write to 6emesconf@emes.net

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