



Sustainable and Responsible Management:
A decade of Integrating Knowledge and Creating Societal Impact through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

TRACK 12:
Social Entrepreneurship: Opportunities, Challenges and Implications

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KEYWORDS

social entrepreneurship, responsible entrepreneurship, sustainable business practices

TRACK HIGHLIGHT

The track aims to address the implications, challenges and opportunities of social entrepreneurship for responsible management especially in a business context. Despite the recognised importance of the role of social entre- and intrapreneurship for transformation for sustainable development, only few scholars have investigated key questions regarding how and why social entrepreneurship happens and what the specific capabilities of social entrepreneurs are.

TRACK DESCRIPTION

Despite the growing interest in social entrepreneurship, it remains a relatively novel field of research that lacks definitional consensus. Scholarly work in this field is still fragmented and heterogeneous with competing and overlapping definitions having spurred extensive debate (Pittz et al., 2017; Young & Lecy, 2014). This lack of agreement stems, in part, from the interdisciplinary nature of approaches to social entrepreneurship research, bridging organisational theory, management practices, sociology, political science, geography and environmental science and economics (Doherty et al., 2014). The different research perspectives and specific interests of scholarly work on social entrepreneurship also explain the divergence of definitions.



Social entrepreneurship has been approached and defined in terms of the motivation and character traits of social entrepreneurs or alternatively from a focus on the entrepreneurial activities and processes of creating social value (Kraus et al., 2017). Despite the abundance of varied and contested definitions of social entrepreneurship, two defining characteristics of this phenomenon can be drawn out of these: (1) carrying out some type of commercial activity which generates revenue, and (2) the pursuit of social goals (Doherty et al., 2014, p. 420). Typical social objectives pursued by social enterprises include alleviating poverty, inequality, unemployment (of disadvantaged groups), homelessness, and carbon emissions (Doherty et al., 2014).

The proposed track goes hand in hand with the core topic of the upcoming RMER Conference since it addresses the implications, challenges and opportunities for responsible management in a particular business context, i.e. social entrepreneurship and its role in driving and supporting action towards the SDGs. To address the challenges and trends, it is crucial to foster the dialogue between the scientific communities to deepen the understanding of the challenges faced by businesses.

Therefore, we are excited to launch a track that focuses on social enterprises, inviting submissions of papers including (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Social entrepreneurship & Social enterprise
- Responsible entrepreneurship
- Implementing and learning from Sustainable business practices
- Social entrepreneurship processes involving opportunity recognition and evaluation
- Cross-cultural comparative studies in social entrepreneurship
- Research challenges in social entrepreneurship
- Competences and capabilities of social entrepreneurs
- Education for social entrepreneurship, including incubator programs
- University-business partnerships in social entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship networks and ecosystems
- Social entrepreneurs as key actors for Agenda 2030

We welcome and encourage submissions using diverse theoretical perspectives as well as different and new methodological approaches.



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