

**Sustainable development through social  
enterprise, co-operative and voluntary  
action**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

Organised by



**EMES network**



Action 16206 "Empowering the next  
generation of social enterprise  
scholars" (EMPOWER-SE)

Hosted by

**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**

Sheffield  
Business  
School



Centre for  
Regional Economic  
and Social Research



Principles for Responsible  
Management Education

## I. Conference rationale

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The EMES International Research Network and the EMPOWER-SE COST Action, in partnership the FairShares Institute for Cooperative Social Entrepreneurship (FSI) and Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University, are pleased to announce the 7<sup>th</sup> EMES International Research Conference on the theme "**Sustainable development through social enterprise, co-operative and voluntary action**". The conference will take place on June 24-27, 2019, at Sheffield Hallam University in the United Kingdom (UK). The aim of this conference is to be a meeting place for scholars from across the globe who have developed contributions to scholarship on the social and solidarity economy, social entrepreneurship, social innovation, cooperative development and voluntary action.

## II. Conference theme

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What is the role of social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action in addressing, undermining and transforming sustainable development? This includes but is not limited to: poverty and inequality; quality of life; environment and eco-systems and; managing sustainable economies. We invite scholars to explore synergies between different disciplines within social enterprise research and catalyze critical debate between different research communities on the state of the art. Specifically, we invite contributors to reassess the nature of and controversies surrounding 'hybrid' and 'pure' conceptualisations of the field.

Social enterprises cross various boundaries, in terms of sectors (public, business, cooperatives, associations), resources (market, public procurement, grants, volunteering) and activity fields. Their social mission is usually linked to the activity field(s) in which they operate, ranging from more traditional fields such as access to social services and health and work integration to the most innovative ones, such as emerging platform cooperatives, eco-entrepreneurship, crowd-based social finance and radical attempts at cultural change through civic action.

To what extent do government and civil society actors, social economy leaders and business practitioners work towards sustainable development? In this conference, there are opportunities to discover (or rediscover) the advancement of social and environmental aims, and rethink how models of social enterprise (including those discovered during the International Comparative Social Enterprise Models (ICSEM) project)<sup>1</sup> contribute to sustainable development.

Taking a worldwide interdisciplinary perspective, this conference invites diverse scholarly communities to discuss and debate the challenges that arise from sustainable development. The conference will bring together research communities from all over the world studying different aspects of the third sector through the perspectives of social innovation, entrepreneurship and solidarity action, institutional logics, commons transition and other relevant frameworks.

To encourage academic debate across fields and disciplines, the conference will be structured along 10 main thematic to build up an international corpus of theoretical and empirical knowledge, pluralistic in disciplines and methodologies, around "SE" concepts: social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, social economy and solidarity economy:

- 1) Concepts and models of social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action (SE)
- 2) Resourcing social, cooperative and voluntary action
- 3) Social innovation and entrepreneurship
- 4) Radical forms of democracy, participation and action in SE
- 5) Multi-Level governance and eco-systems for SE and sustainable development
- 6) Public policy and legal frameworks for SE
- 7) The commons and collaborative economy through SE

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<sup>1</sup> See working papers at: <https://www.iap-socent.be/icsem-working-papers>

- 8) Social solidarity and transformative movements
- 9) Substantive economy and Polanyian approaches to SE research and practice
- 10) Epistemological, methodological and pedagogic innovations/advancements in SE

### III. Conference organisers

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

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

**FSI (FairShares Institute for Cooperative Social Entrepreneurship)** is a PRME initiative that builds on 15 years of research and knowledge transfer activities. This community of academic and PhD / post-PhD early career researchers have built new knowledge on worker cooperation, employee-ownership, non-profit and charity governance, with a particular focus on sustainability, models of ownership, HRM, accounting, social innovation, public policy and the FairShares Model of social enterprise development.

**CRESR (Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research)** is a well-established research centre focusing on housing, economic development and social policy formed 30 years ago. It is one of the most active centres of third sector scholarship in the UK, undertaking a range of policy-relevant academic and evaluation research for research councils, government departments, local authorities, charities, associations and foundations.

### IV. Key dates

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**Full call publication** – September 2018

**Submission of abstracts deadline** – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Notification to authors** – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Full paper submission (for award)** – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Conference opening** – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

For any questions about this conference, please write to [7emesconf@emes.net](mailto:7emesconf@emes.net)