

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

WEBINAR VERSION

Organization



Support



This workshop benefits from the support of the Atlantic Social Lab project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA_246/2016).



Organisers:

CES - Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
APDR - Portuguese Association for Regional Development

www.ces.uc.pt
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Support:

CinTurs - Research Centre for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-Being of the University of Algarve
Faculty of Economics - University of Algarve

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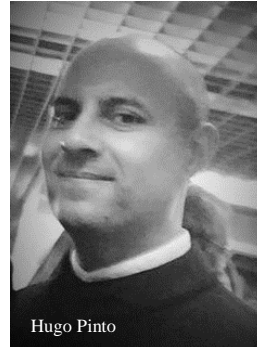
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WELCOME TO THE *SOCIAL INNOVATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY: EMBRACING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT!*

Contemporary societies are facing permanent social, economic and ecological turbulence. Social innovation begins with the willingness to transform ideas into action in order to respond to problems and contribute for solutions where public policies have failed to provide effective answers. Despite the fragmentation of the field, Regional Science has been an important catalyst for social innovation research by paying attention to territorial innovative responses towards emerging social needs.



The 25th APDR workshop *Social Innovation Towards Sustainability: Embracing Contemporary Challenges for Regional Development* promotes the reflection and knowledge sharing on social innovation practices connected with sustainability and regional development. It intends to stimulate an inter-sector dialogue among researchers, activists, local, regional and national policy makers, associations, non-governmental organisations, practitioners of social innovation and social entrepreneurs.

Initially, the workshop was to be held on the 16th of April 2020 at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Algarve (Faro, Portugal). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop had to be postponed. In order to ensure the safety of all participants, it was decided to hold the workshop online in a webinar format version, from the 28th of September to the 2nd of October 2020. Its main objective is to discuss the state of the art of social innovation in Regional Science and the contemporary challenge for sustainability.

The topics of discussion, among others, regard social innovation, micro-scale innovation, transformative innovation, sustainability transitions and community-based sustainability projects. The workshop intends to stimulate synergies between research, governance and civil society initiatives, present examples of community-based good practices, and contribute to the visibility of social innovation as a central topic for the transformation of society towards a more sustainable future.

The workshop is organised by APDR - Portuguese Association for Regional Development and CES - Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, with the support of CinTurs - Research Centre for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-Being of the University of Algarve. This workshop also benefits from the support of the Atlantic Social Lab project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA_246/2016).

GENERAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY – 28/09/2020

16h30 Keynote Opening – EN

Power dynamics in transformative social innovation

Flor Avelino

Community resilience, sustainability and success on the margins and peripheries

Michael Danson

Chair: Hugo Pinto

TUESDAY – 29/09/2020

14h30 Parallel Session 1 - PT

Tourism and Territorial Renewal

Past, present and future of creative tourism in Portugal: analysing actors and connection dynamics

Ana Rita Cruz, Margarida Perestrelo, Maria Assunção Gato, Pedro Costa & Elisabete Tomaz

Behind the formation of networks: tourist routes in areas of low competitiveness

Luís Mota Figueira, **Oliva Martins** & José Luis Braga

How can cities combine their governance paradigms with social innovation for an inclusive urban regeneration?

URBiNAT Study Case

Fábio Sampaio, Gonçalo Canto Moniz, Isabel Ferreira & Beatriz Caitana

From urban overtourism to an empty city: how to reignite urban tourism after Covid-19?

Maria Assunção Gato & Ana Rita Cruz

Chair: Carla Nogueira

WEDNESDAY – 30/09/2020

14h30 Parallel Session 2 - EN

Spaces for Sustainable Social Innovation

Social innovation in Portugal – where are we and what are we doing?

Joana Dias & Maria Partidário

Defining common spaces as key components of a sustainable perspective

Gilda Farrell

Constructing inter-generational arts space: places and potentialities

Anthony Killick

Social innovation in the development of rural regions: experience of the Austrian region of Muehlviertel

Marina Novikova & Maria de Fátima Ferreira

Sustainable tourism: Is there a path from sustainability indexes to innovative governance?

Fátima Carvalho & **Silvia Fernandes**

Chair: Carla Nogueira

16h30 Parallel Session 3 - PT
Learning for Social Innovation

Social innovation impact assessment: a proposal for a measurement tool
Jorge Cunha, **Wellington Alves**, Madalena Araújo & Paul Benneworth

DIVE project: sharing experiences of non-formal education on social entrepreneurship
Teresa Dieguez, Oscarina Conceição & Lúcia Campinho

Social learning and innovations in sustainability transitions – a research in progress
Maria Partidário, **Margarida Monteiro**, Joana Dias, Isabel Loupa Ramos, Teresa Fidélis, Teresa Pinto Correia, Catarina Madeira, Maria Rivera & José da Veiga

Demand profile of ecovillage tourists in Portugal: a sociological and economic perspective
Carla Nogueira & **Michelle Moraes**

Tracking the Portuguese community-based initiatives landscape: The role of politicisation and institutional frameworks
Alexandra Bussler, João Mourato & David Avelar

Chair: Paola DiNunzio

THURSDAY – 01/10/2020

14h30 Parallel Session 4 - PT
Social Innovation and Communities

Dreamers and starters: are ecosystems fostering entrepreneurship in Portugal?
Fernando C. Gaspar & Fernando M. Mota

Olive oil cooperatives as a medium of social innovation in the Andalusian countryside
José Domingo Sánchez Martínez, Vicente José Gallego Simón, Antonio Garrido Almonacid & Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cohard

Urban and peri-urban agriculture public policy: an analysis of normative instruments in the city of São Paulo (Brazil)
Katia Carolino & Marcos Sorrentino

Analysing the social innovation networks of intentional sustainable communities in Europe
Carla Nogueira, João Filipe Marques & Hugo Pinto

Some insights on the role of universities in the social innovation process
Jorge Cunha, Carla Ferreira, Madalena Araújo & Paul Benneworth

Chair: Carla Nogueira

16h30 Parallel Session 5 - PT
Regional Dynamics

Spatial autocorrelation of exports and R&D in Portugal
António Carlos de Campos, Luís Lopes & Carlos Carreira

Regional unemployment and cyclical sensitivity in Spain
Alejandro Almeida, Aida Galiano, Antonio A. Golpe & Juan M. Martin

Regional effects of tourism in Portugal: a multivariate analysis
Hugo S. Gonçalves & Jorge M. Andraz

Determinants of liquidity: the case of Greece
Beatriz Gonçalves, Luís Coelho & Rúben Peixinho

Chair: André Guerreiro

FRIDAY – 02/10/2020

14h30 Focus Group – PT

The transformative potential of social innovation for regional development

Chair: Carla Nogueira

16h30 Keynote Final

Institutional relatedness, technology and sustainability in economic geography: a sympathetic critique

Mário do Vale

Public policies and social innovation governance

Sílvia Ferreira

Portugal Social Innovation: a pioneering policy for development

Filipe Almeida

Chair: Hugo Pinto

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Filipe Almeida has a PhD in Management from Getúlio Vargas Foundation - Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and a Master in Business Sciences from the School of Economics of the University of Coimbra. He attended in 1999 the MBA program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (USA). His current research interests in business management are ethics, moral philosophy and corporate social responsibility. He is a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies and the Centre for Cooperative and Social Economy Studies. Currently, he is a Professor at the University of Coimbra and president of Portugal Inovação Social (Portugal Social Innovation).

Portugal Social Innovation: a pioneering policy for development

Portugal Social Innovation is a government initiative aimed at promoting social innovation and developing the social investment market in Portugal. To do so, it mobilises around EUR 150 million from the European Social Fund, as part of the Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement. These funds are channelled to the market through four financing instruments dedicated to fund projects that offer alternative and innovative solutions to solve social problems. The financing models of these instruments prompt the development of partnerships between investors (public and private) and the social organisations and entrepreneurs who implement the social innovation projects. This initiative is the first of its kind in Europe, given that Portugal was the only Member State to set aside EU funds until 2020 to experiment new financing instruments in order to foster innovation and social investment. To this date, the initiative has approved more than 37 million euros to finance more than 300 projects, from North to South, which have mobilised an extra 15 million euros in social investment from municipalities, foundations, corporations and other public and private organisations. With high potential for impact in national and regional public policies, Portugal Social Innovation is currently the main catalyser of this vibrant and promising ecosystem in Portugal.



Flor Avelino works at the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT, Erasmus University of Rotterdam) as Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher in the field of politics for sustainability transitions and social innovation. She specialised in power and empowerment theories, and has a particular interest in translocal networks and innovation movements that aim to tackle social challenges. As scientific coordinator of the TRANSIT project, she was one of the proponents of the Transformative Social Innovation Manifesto. As the academic director of the Transition Academy, Flor strives to co-create new learning environments to challenge people to think and act for radical, transformative change.

Power dynamics in transformative social innovation

Transitions towards sustainability and justice require both technological and social innovation, as well as the engagement of multiple actors and institutions. This talk will reflect on shifting power dynamics across government, business and civil society in processes of change and innovation, and discuss how people and networks are empowered to transform their environments into more sustainable and fairer places.



Mário Vale has a Degree in Geography, a Master's degree in Human Geography and Local and Regional Planning and a PhD Degree in Human Geography from the University of Lisbon. He holds a position as Full Professor at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon. He was Visiting Research Fellow at CURDS (Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies), at the University of Newcastle in 2006 and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Department of Geography at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) in 2013. Currently, he is Director of the Centre for Geographical Studies, University of Lisbon, and a member of the ZOE research cluster in CEG. He was President of the Portuguese Association of Geographers (2004-2008) and Vice-Chair of the Regional Studies Association (2008-2011) while he is currently a FeRSA (Fellow of the Regional Studies Association) and RSA Ambassador in Portugal.

Institutional relatedness, technology and sustainability in economic geography: a sympathetic critique

Social innovation is a concept widely used across different scientific areas—including geography, economics and management, and political science—but not necessarily in an unambiguously way (Moulaert et al. 2013). It aims to encapsulate significant changes in society that underpin new ways to collectively solve problems, including grand societal challenges like ageing, food security, environmental degradation, climate change and others. Many of these challenges have been scrutinised in economic geography through the study of innovation across different geographical scales. Notably, economic geographers have examined infrastructures, capabilities, networks and institutional challenges in the process of regional diversification and sustainability (Coenen et al. 2015). However, innovation studies have examined formal institutions in the emergence and diffusion of novel technologies, while informal institutions have been traditionally downplayed in the explanation of new technologies diffusion and regional diversification (Wirth et al 2013, Santoalha & Boschma 2020). In this paper, we review these insights and explore the 'institutional relatedness' concept (Carvalho & Vale 2018) as a way to better understand regional diversification and sustainability.



Michael Danson is a Full Professor at the Heriot-Watt University. Graduated with a MA (Honours) in Economics and Statistics from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, he received the recognition of Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2001 and was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Development in 2007 and of the Regional Studies Association in 2010. Mike is on the Steering Group of the Third Sector Internship Scotland SFC-funded programme, with special responsibility for the research on the internships in social enterprises. Mike is a trustee of the East Renfrewshire Community Enterprise Trust and has previously been involved in establishing social enterprises in different contexts and environments, often in deprived and fragile communities.

Community resilience, sustainability and success on the margins and peripheries

The survival of communities and the fragility of their development are typically associated with many places in Europe's geographical peripheries and margins. Low incomes and poverty, poor housing, dependence on traditional low value sectors, ageing and declining populations with out-migration of younger people have progressively come to characterise these 'lagging' regions over the period of globalisation. Despite national and European public support for lifeblood transport links and public services, agencies have been unable to reverse their relative and absolute decline. However, the shift in recent times towards a greater emphasis on both enterprise and sustainability agenda has offered a new set of challenges but also opportunities for these remote areas, and nowhere more so than across Scotland's Highlands and Islands. There have been significant impacts on the nature of production and consumption economies within Scotland's rural spaces while essential reform of land ownership has facilitated the potential for further positive change, offering lessons for other such places and communities. Experiences and analyses increasingly inform policy and opportunity within and beyond these remote rural regions, most especially in the historically and currently recognised spaces of modern 'margin' - Scotland's off-shore islands and their counterparts elsewhere in

Europe. Community and social enterprises in these environments demonstrate the need to avoid a simple transfer of sectoral and national strategies and policies to peripheral and marginal regions, while the nature of behaviours and attitudes to island social enterprise and entrepreneurship in local and national case studies suggest useful insight into possible transfer of experience across the European Union.



Silvia Ferreira is Assistant Professor in Sociology at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra and Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies and at the Centre for Cooperative and Social Economy Studies of the Faculty of Economics. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Lancaster University (UK). She has been involved in research on social security reform, third sector and social policy, gender equality in third sector organisations, social entrepreneurship and social innovation in the social and solidarity economy, social enterprises, volunteering and local governance through state/third sector partnerships. Her basic interest has been the evolving nature of the welfare state and, more recently, of the welfare mixes from a sociological standpoint based on complex social systems approaches. Her extension work focuses on the relation between the university and society, particularly the third sector/social economy.

Public policies and social innovation governance

Since the 2000s, social innovation has transformed from something that came out of the energy of the society to something that is intentionally enabled, planned and even made by public policy. It became a way of governing societies in contexts described as complex, requiring new forms of governance that involve a wide range of actors from public, private and third sectors. There is an inherent paradox in this shift. The state has been seen as the place of institutional stability, against which civil society is supposed to experiment with new solutions that ultimately lead to institutional change. This talk discusses several coexisting meanings of social innovation and its relationship with public policies, and reflects on how these different meanings articulate with the rescaling of the state from national to local, regional and international levels.

FOCUS GROUP

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This event also features a focus group discussion, in Portuguese, about “The Transformative Potential of Social Innovation for Regional Development”. This focus group is developed by the Atlantic Social Lab project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA_246/2016).

This focus group is intended to be a participatory session whose objective is to promote a multi-level and multi-sectoral discussion on the importance of social innovation for regional development. The discussion will be guided around three main questions:

- a) what is the importance of social innovation for the development of territories?
- b) what are the main difficulties felt in the development of social innovation initiatives?
- c) what new needs did the Covid-19 pandemic bring to the society?
- d) what are the strategies to overcome these challenges?

The focus group will have the presence of a group of organisations that have a pivotal role in the economic and social development of the Algarve region, including winners of the Partnerships for the Impact of the Portugal Inovação Social (Portugal Social Innovation) contest.

Participants:

CRIA - Divisão de Empreendedorismo e Transferência de Tecnologia da Universidade do Algarve (Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer Division of the University of Algarve)

CASULO - Incubadora de Inovação Social Loulé Algarve (Loulé Algarve Social Innovation Incubator)

APEXA - Associação de Apoio à Pessoa Excepcional do Algarve (Algarve Association of Support to the Disabled Person)

QRER - Cooperativa para o Desenvolvimento dos Territórios de Baixa Densidade (Cooperative for the Development of Low-density Territories)

NERA - Associação Empresarial da Região do Algarve (Entrepreneurial Association of the Algarve Region)

Portugal Inovação Social (Portugal Social Innovation)

PARALLEL SESSIONS ABSTRACTS

PARALLEL SESSION 1

TOURISM AND RENEWAL

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CREATIVE TOURISM IN PORTUGAL: ANALYSING ACTORS AND CONNECTION DYNAMICS

Ana Rita Cruz, Margarida Perestrelo, Maria Assunção Gato, Pedro Costa, Elisabete Tomaz (DINÂMIA'CET-IUL - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, ISCTE-IUL)

Creative tourism is seen as a new model of cultural tourism to leverage economic, social and cultural dynamics. It is a form of tourism built from the opposition to the mainstream forms of tourism (e.g. mass tourism), further from the main touristic routes and focused on specific experiences and products, based in the endogenous place and community amenities available. As such, creative tourism has a sustainable ground, intending to promote and value the local identity and resources of places and communities, representing additional income and at the same time, being able to open these territories to the world, respecting the environmental, social, cultural and economic pillars of sustainability. The CREATOUR project – an incubator and multidisciplinary collaborative research initiative aiming to develop a network of creative tourism initiatives in four Portuguese regions (Norte, Centro, Alentejo and Algarve) – has been promoting the implementation of 40 creative tourism pilot initiatives in small cities and rural areas of Portugal since 2016. This communication intends to contextualise the creative tourism activities in Portugal before, during and after the CREATOUR project implementation, giving special emphasis to the results achieved from an actor/network perspective. Thus, the analysis presented results from a Social Network Analysis combined with an Actors Strategic Analysis, based on the content analysis of 100 interviews made to the 40 CREATOUR pilot initiatives promoters between 2017 and 2019. The results of the analysis undertaken are crucial to identify possible future pathways for the development of a formal creative tourism network in Portugal, by pinpointing actors' centrality, its connections dynamics, and common goals they face towards this objective.

BEHIND THE FORMATION OF NETWORKS: TOURIST ROUTES IN AREAS OF LOW COMPETITIVENESS

Luís Mota Figueira (Techn&Art, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar)

Oliva Martins (Smart Cities Research Center (Ci2), Instituto Politécnico de Tomar)

José Luís Braga (APHVIN/GEHVID, CITUR, Techn&Art, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar)

The structuring of a route always depends on supply and demand. On the supply side, there are resources that are unique, difficult to copy, but there are also others that can be developed, namely to add value to the territory. On the demand side, it will always depend on the expectations of the customer (tourist) and his willingness to purchase more or less standardised products. Using a multidisciplinary perspective that encompasses theoretical aspects of tourism routing and itineraries, associated with the principles of collaborative strategy and stakeholder theory, the objective of this research is presenting a proposal for structuring tourist itineraries based on available resources, in order to increase the competitiveness of territories with scarce resources, namely deserted territories. This research identifies the conceptual dimensions of the factors for structuring the best possible itineraries, as well as presenting the strategic assumptions of cooperation and collaboration, which integrate the interests of the different stakeholders in the respective network. In this sense, a methodology for the creation of this network is presented. On the supply side, it is hoped to create value for products addressed to the tourist. On the demand side, it is desirable to better meet the different expectations. In the end, the sum of all efforts results in gain for all the parties involved, individuals and the community.

HOW CAN CITIES COMBINE THEIR GOVERNANCE PARADIGMS WITH SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE URBAN REGENERATION? URBINAT STUDY CASE

Fábio Sampaio, Gonçalo Canto Moniz, Isabel Ferreira, Beatriz Caitana (CES - Centre for Social Studies, UC)

Contemporary societies are facing new economic problems and societal challenges, crystallised in urban contexts characterised by social exclusion. This requires to rethink and restructure the neoliberalism development paradigm and readapt the capitalist discourse to embody the increasing awareness of the need for change, combining it with an inclusive urban regeneration. Market-oriented innovation no longer can be perceived as a long-term solution and, therefore, other approaches to innovation, such as social innovation, have to emerge. Social innovation is a complex process that seeks to solve social problems, generating new ideas, products or processes that meet social needs. Despite the current relevance of the social innovation concept, resulting from the fact that contemporary societies face unprecedented problems that endanger their economy and social model, there is a question that remains – how can cities combine their governance paradigms with social innovation for an inclusive urban regeneration? According to Marina Mazzucato, nowadays there should be a strong correlation between the state and its problem-solving mechanisms and innovation as a new and improved tool for identifying and solving social needs. Taking this premise into account, URBiNAT is an H2020 project focused on the inclusive urban regeneration of social housing neighbourhoods in 7 European cities, achieved through the implementation of nature-based solutions in the public space as a result of a co-creation process involving not only the municipalities, but also the population of the intervention areas. It uses four typologies of NBS (technological, territorial, participatory and social and solidarity solutions) to combine ecological, social and civic innovations in the context of urban regeneration. The URBiNAT project is premised on social innovation as it has at its core to meet social needs in a socially including way, which also directly involves, and is even more determined by, the people who have those needs, in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders. Being said that, and considering the need to identify the problem-solving mechanisms proposed by Mazzucato, this presentation analyses the potential of the co-creation process to introduce social innovation in the different governance and urban contexts. In this sense, this communication will present the analysis of how the municipalities built their "URBiNAT team", moulding their internal structure according to a task force idea that integrates the various levels of decision from councillors to field technicians, opening avenues to new ways of planning and building the cities with citizens in order to increase democratic governance.

FROM URBAN OVERTOURISM TO AN EMPTY CITY: HOW TO REIGNITE URBAN TOURISM AFTER COVID-19?

Maria Assunção Gato, Ana Rita Cruz (DINÂMIA'CET-IUL - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, ISCTE-IUL)

Until recently, tourism has been one of the main economic sectors in Portugal, registering vertiginous growths in last decade and contributing in a remarkable way to the national GDP and to the creation of jobs. Much of this tourism pressure has fallen on the major cities of Lisbon and Porto, as a result of the spreading of the so called “New urban tourism” (Füller & Michel, 2014; Law, 1992; Page, 1995), producing several collateral effects, in parallel to what has been happening in other European cities that became victims of their own success. The phenomenon of overtourism (Goodwin, 2017; Milano, 2018; Milano, Novelli, & Cheer, 2019; UNWTO, 2018) is partly the outcome of an inability to manage this growth in a sustainable way, which not only results in negative impacts on the quality of life of the host populations, but also on the quality of tourist experiences. The beginning of 2020 changed the course of this action due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, which is still challenging the world economy with very negative impacts. OECD estimates that the overall direct initial impact in the GDP of advanced economies might be between 20-25%, and that the economic sectors most directly affected, among which the tourism has a prominent situation, might register output declines from 50 to 100% (OECD, 2020). It is going to be a hard economic shock and the first predictions (Gössling, Scott, & Hall, 2020) point to the immediate tourism transformation in the recovery period: domestic markets will be the first to open; tourists will give preference to physical proximity; travelling involving airplane and other collective means of transportation will take longer to be used again and the same applies to accommodation, with travellers avoiding hotels. This might put again some pressure on the so-

called peer-to-peer accommodation, which will be the first to be reclaimed by tourists. In this context, touristic destinations are facing a unique opportunity to reignite and redefine their tourism models. Tourism may play a relevant role for socioeconomic resilience, particularly if it integrates regional innovation to increase the value of the destination (Porter, Pinto, & Cruz, 2012). Departing from this great reset, it will be possible to engage in more sustainable, creative and equitable approaches, demanding both the quality of the tourist experience and the residents' quality of living. Although still at a preliminary stage of work, the central objective of this communication is contributing to a reflection around the relaunch of tourism in Lisbon, based on a more resilient and sustainable model, through the co-production of knowledge and good practices addressed to the various stakeholders, planning mechanisms and public policies.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

SPACES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL INNOVATION

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN PORTUGAL – WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Joana Dias, Maria Partidário (Instituto Superior Técnico)

In the last few years, Social Innovation (SI) has become popular and a catchy term to address social problems. The literature reveals that, although recognised as complex, the concept is often used as an appealing term, generating mixed understandings and therefore contributing to its apparently elusive and pervasive use. In Portugal, SI research has been increasing, with the academic forum providing some national research projects, namely on SI (i) dimensions and spaces, (ii) mapping and (iii) practices and their relation with the communities' social problems. The development of the Portugal Social Innovation (PSI) (coordinated by EMPIS - Structure of Portugal Social Innovation Mission), a public initiative that intends to promote SI and stimulate the social market investment in Portugal, has created several activities around the term SI in the country. PSI has allowed various local social initiatives to flourish and grow, providing them with financial support through the implementation of the social impact bonds. However, in the academia and in practice, the term social innovation has been used to refer to social innovative initiatives, entrepreneurial initiatives or even initiatives that just create a traditional response to social problems. This raises two questions: (i) what is meant by social innovation? and (ii) does social innovation mean the same in every case? This presentation will address these questions in the face of the literature and of what has been happening in Portugal, to differentiate between initiatives that are socially innovative and others that are entrepreneurial led.

DEFINING COMMON SPACES AS KEY COMPONENT OF A SUSTAINABLE PERSPECTIVE

Gilda Farrell (Associação CARMEN)

We face a crucial moment of exhaustion of a certain idea of "autonomy", exempted from links with the space, based on individual consumption choices in the global market. Such type of autonomy generates disastrous economic, environmental and social consequences. Thus, transformative approaches face an essential political question: how common life can be organised around new concepts of space or how to establish a renewed relationship with spaces opening to the sustainability of Humanity and the Earth. In the frame of social innovation, it becomes important to debate a concept of "common spaces" that will lead innovators and communities to foresee the horizons they wish to cross and the actions they wish to influence or engage in. The presentation will analyse the challenges of building the concept of spaces as "commons" by leaning on four perspectives: nomadism vs. sedentary lifestyle; mass society vs. elites; socialisation vs. symbiosis (with others and nature); novelty in the exercise of property and / or novelty in the exercise of democracy and care. Each one of these perspectives raises questions when it comes to developing a political, ethical and inclusive understanding of territorial/space sustainability. Finally, the presentation will ask what sustainability of community life means when the ability to plan the future faces uncertainty, arguing that is the generative capacity of attention and care given to others and to nature, as well as the transmission of well-being received through care, that produces a chain of lasting or sustainable relationships in a given context. Thus, the

character of the interaction between citizens and with nature becomes a key element to inscribe spaces or territories in a shared long-term sustainable perspective.

CONSTRUCTING INTER-GENERATIONAL ARTS SPACE: PLACES AND POTENTIALITIES

Anthony Killick (Liverpool John Moores University)

The cultural and economic divide between older and younger generations throughout the EU is now widely recognised as a social problem that is getting worse, exacerbating public health issues such as increased anxiety towards older people and the ageing process as such. Concurrently, urban development programmes directed towards the construction of “age-friendly” cities have been limited in their understanding of intergenerational relationships and how these are formed against a background of deeper socio-economic problems. This research analyses efforts to construct intergenerational shared spaces in three localised contexts within the United Kingdom: Islington, London (an urban high-growth area), Stoke-on-Trent (an urban low-growth area) and Hay-on-Wye (a rural area on the border of England and Wales). Drawing on qualitative research in the form of interviews with cultural practitioners and participants in cultural activities, the research outlines the role of intergenerational shared spaces as part of a broader project of enabling socio-ecological justice within and between urban and rural locales. Arts and cultural spaces may be used as a form of “social infrastructure” to advance the development of age-friendly city programmes that address the underlying socio-economic causes of intergenerational tensions and societal ageism. The research was developed as part of a five-year project carried out by the Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) that examines the role of localised arts and cultural practices in facilitating more socially and ecologically sustainable communities.

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL REGIONS: EXPERIENCE OF THE AUSTRIAN REGION OF MUEHLVIERTEL

Marina Novikova, Maria de Fátima Ferreiro (DINÂMIA'CET-IUL - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, ISCTE)

Responding to contemporary challenges faced by communities in rural areas, such as low population density, weakened economic activity and environmental challenges, requires a different approach to be able to solve them. As suggested by both policy and research, social innovation can offer novel combinations of ideas to tackle challenges by changing the attitudes of actors and questioning existing institutional context, among others. However, despite the prominent space of social innovation in the research on urban contexts, rural social innovation research is still rather fragmented and underrepresented. The role of social innovation in the development of rural areas, together with the drivers behind social innovation as well as the promoters of it, remain underexplored. This paper aims at analysing the experience of the Austrian Muehlviertel region in embracing social innovation as a promising tool for regional development. The results show that the promotion of social innovation is taking on an implicit rather than explicit character, alongside the re-orientation towards an opportunity-driven social innovation rather than to a problem solving type of the latter. By committing to the sustainable and integrated approach towards regional development in rural areas, actors of regional development and social innovation in Muehlviertel engage in regional projects on sustainable agriculture and tourism, facilitate local communities’ initiatives and create a support infrastructure for rural entrepreneurship to thrive. Nevertheless, actors working in the field of regional development face challenges related to their own organisations’ sustainability, which are discussed in the paper.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: IS THERE A PATH FROM SUSTAINABILITY INDEXES TO INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE?

Fátima Carvalho, Silvia Fernandes (CinTurs – Research Centre for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-Being, University of the Algarve)

This work intends to verify if there is an academic research that proposes innovative strategies for sustainable tourism. It then analyses, 70 relevant documents including theses, dissertations, scientific papers and reports are reviewed. The main objectives to explore are: which themes stand out most; the difference between academic production in Portugal and Brazil, where sustainable tourism has been a key area; and how the topics of sustainability, environment, governance, planning and regulation are related with tourism. A software for qualitative analysis is used to enrich the discussion around sustainable tourism, discerning preferential governance strategies. Few works use sustainability indexes and, if used, most of them are descriptive. For a really sustainable tourism, its governance has to be based on the appropriate indicators. Measures can empower destinations, providing the information needed to decide accurately and creatively. A challenge for the Portuguese academy on tourism and hospitality is to have an ongoing role in implementing key indicators, and in their validation and monitoring.

PARALLEL SESSION 3

LEARNING FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

SOCIAL INNOVATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT: A PROPOSAL FOR A MEASUREMENT TOOL

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Social innovation (SI) practical initiatives and academic research are fast-growing, but at the same time they have gained more attention thanks to their impact over society. The assessment of SI initiatives can focus on different perspectives, such as evaluation of the innovation performance of projects or the innovativeness performance of organisations (Bund et al. 2015). The demand for measures to assess the social impact of different types of organisations has been growing over the more recent years (Cunha et al. 2019). Therefore, the literature devoted to methodologies and tools to assess the impact of SI has not yet been extensively studied. Data availability in this field persists as a challenging task, since there is a lack of structured frameworks to gather data, which configures a gap in the current literature. To support the development of SI initiatives, methodologies and conceptual frameworks which allow to evaluate the true impact of these initiatives are needed. It may lead to an effective assessment of SI that can also support a more informed decision-making process (Cunha and Benneworth 2019). This research aims to provide new insights on the topic of perception and awareness towards the impact of SI. The work included the knowledge and use of a set of indicators focusing on six main dimensions, namely education, community, poverty, innovative processes, environment and technology. The work resulted in a proposed Social Innovation Assessment Model (SIA-Model), which can be applied among organisations and projects, in order to assess the impact of SI through targeted groups.

DIVE PROJECT: SHARING EXPERIENCES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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The Social Entrepreneurship approach is presented as a basis to help solving the problems that exist in the society, therefore social economy activities play a fundamental role: they combine innovation with the execution of solidarity relations between the community and the environment involved, thus highlighting its mission and contribution to sustainable development. This study sought to demonstrate the reflection of the European project "DIVE" of non-formal education on Social Entrepreneurship, with a view to identifying editions, main activities developed and partner entities. It also aims to understand its impact on project participants and project coordinators, as well as their evaluation and eventual(/possible) recommendations. It also intends to realise whether or not changing the world through social entrepreneurship is a utopia of contemporary society. An investigation was developed based on a mixed approach, materialised through 2 surveys: one for project participants and another for coordinators. A selected sample consisted of 100 responses (79 participants and 21 coordinators), representing 51.28% of the total number of participants' universes targeted by the project. The questionnaire was conducted between 1st June and 22nd September of 2019, through DIVE Alumni (closed group) on the Facebook platform.

SOCIAL LEARNING AND INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS – A RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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Teresa Fidélis (Universidade de Aveiro)

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José da Veiga (Universidade de Évora)

TRUST (social innovation sTRategies for sUSTainability transitions) is a research project that focuses on sustainability transition (ST) initiatives in urban and rural Portugal, supported on social learning and innovation. The research aims to investigate forms of social innovation (SI) that can drive community change in social-ecological systems at local scale. For our analytical process, we selected initiatives which have in common the purpose to create locally based ST through strategies that can enable change in approaches, routines, practices, systems and mind-sets – which we recognise as components of SI. The state of art has been reviewed on three core concepts - SI, ST and Governance - and a conceptual model developed for SI to enable ST for transformative change. A participatory research approach, applied to local communities in specific urban and rural social-ecological contexts in Aveiro, Évora and Lisbon, allows to compare results from empirical observation in six case studies. A model for locally based ST through SI strategies results from inferences in learning points based on the literature review and empirical observations. In this presentation, we will share the results of the research already developed. Lessons are shared on how we are building the understandings of people's values, motivations and behaviours driven by contextual dynamics, that is the

governance system capacity to foster SI for transformative change in each overall social-ecological system patterns influencing ST.

DEMAND PROFILE OF ECOVILLAGE TOURISTS IN PORTUGAL: A SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

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Michelle Moraes (Research Unit for Tourism and Hospitality, European University and GOVCOPP)

Amongst the main determinants of tourism flows are demand variables, such as time constraints and preferences. With the increase in the perception of ecological crises, new concerns have arisen in tourism practices. In this sense, ecotourism has gained prominence (Hoey, 2008). Ecovillages are an example of places with tourist practices based on the principles of sustainability, to promote cultural and educational experiences based on trust and non-monetary exchange. As the demand profile of ecovillage tourism is still an understudied subject, the main objective of this paper is to elaborate a persona of this niche through a sociological and economic perspective, more specifically, to identify the profiles of the ecovillage tourist. This profile derives from the case studies of three Portuguese ecovillages, using participant observation and in-depth biographical interviews, to address dimensions like age group, class, education, level of commitment to the project, length of stay, activities developed and perceptions about the experience

TRACKING THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES LANDSCAPE: THE ROLE OF POLITICISATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

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João Mourato (ICS - Institute of Social Sciences, UL)

David Avelar (Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, UL)

Transformative social innovation towards a form of living and working based on the principles of sustainability has become increasingly important to halter the present unsustainable relation between humans and nature. Community-based initiatives (CBIs) are perceived as both an embodiment and a resource of this transition towards societal change. However, little is known on the dynamics of the Portuguese CBI landscape. Updated with a quantitative analysis of the recently published CBI data from the transition hub *Rede Convergir Portugal*, this paper analyses Portugal's CBI dynamics, appearance, build-up, reach and future transitional pathways. Despite having a quick and significant growth since 2010, these crucial transition actors and their practices and discourses remain marginalised in Portugal's public arenas. We argue that Portuguese CBIs remain an untapped resource for socio-ecological transitions and societal innovation in Portugal and try to pave a way for CBIs to fully tap into their change potential. We observe that the latter is determined by the form of CBIs' engagement with the political and public spheres, as well as by the contextual institutional frameworks. We conclude that CBIs need to engage the existent institutional landscape and become politicised change actors in order to be able to influence key decision-making processes. On the other hand, favourable institutional frameworks and policy environments are needed to leverage CBIs' change potential. Through a wider theoretical debate on the role of niche actors and a novel focus on value-based societal change, we add value to the existing literature on socio-ecological transitions.

PARALLEL SESSION 4

SOCIAL INNOVATION AND COMMUNITIES

DREAMERS AND STARTERS: ARE ECOSYSTEMS FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PORTUGAL?

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Fernando M. Mota (Dynamic Network XXI)

This research looks at entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) developed in the last decade in Portuguese NUTS3 regions. Data was gathered from different sources, measuring the birth of startups through notary acts of new company creation (dreamers) and measuring activity start through the first submission of payrolls (starters) to Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social (MTSSS) – Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Welfare. This data is analysed with other social and economic variables, trying to assess regional EEs and its role in explaining the large differences between the regions. Particular attention is focused on measuring the birth and the activity of the so called “entrepreneurial ecosystems”, as defined in the literature (Alvedalen & Boschma, 2017; Boutillier, Carré, & Levratto, 2016; Kuckertz, 2019). Results show a huge difference between startups “dreamed” and start-ups actually “starting”: dreamers largely outnumber and outgrow starters. Data also shows this difference spiked and this spike could be the result of the creation of the most visible EEs (Lisbon, Porto and Braga). Figures also show a poor performance of the most visible ecosystems, while other regions (like the Algarve) outperform them consistently in actual starters. This can be considered a seriously disappointing result of all the investment put into Lisbon’s ecosystem.

OLIVE OIL COOPERATIVES AS A MEDIUM OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN THE ANDALUSIAN COUNTRYSIDE

José Domingo Sánchez Martínez, Vicente José Gallego Simón, Antonio Garrido Almonacid, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cohard (Universidad de Jaén)

Andalusia is the region with the highest specialisation in olive growing in the world, with a surface area of 1.6 million hectares. A considerable part of the farmers, among whom smallholdings are very widespread, are grouped in cooperatives, which play a very important role in the processing and marketing of the table olives and olive oils produced in the region. In the case of oils, for example, the 418 cooperatives existing in 2019 processed 70% of the total production. Although these companies were established as an instrument to protect small farmers, globalisation may pose a threat to their survival. Some of them have reacted incorporating social innovation strategies in order to renew their attractiveness among their members and to face the radical transformations of the market. The aim of this paper is to show how good practices are emerging. They are related to the new functions that olive oil cooperatives in Andalusia are beginning to take on, both in terms of improvements to the cultivation systems or management of the farms and with processes of differentiation and diversification. Social innovation processes could raise their potential as actors of rural development. In-depth interviews have been carried out with leaders of cooperatives that have been previously recognised as innovative ones through a bibliographic review and the consultation of experts with leadership in the territory. Results show the strategic importance of social innovation processes as a medium of stimulating rural development in times that jeopardise the standard of living.

URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE PUBLIC POLICY: AN ANALYSIS OF NORMATIVE INSTRUMENTS IN THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO (BRAZIL)

Katia Carolino, Marcos Sorrentino (University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil)

Urban and periurban agriculture (UPA) has long been practiced in many countries around the world, but only in recent years has it attracted the attention of researchers and the government. In Brazil, research already developed about UPA demonstrates the many benefits that the activity offers in areas such as health,

environment, and leisure, among others. In this research, the analysis is related to the public policies that establish the UPA in the Municipality of São Paulo (Brazil) and aims to present some innovative aspects existing in the laws and programs established at the municipal level, seeking to contribute to the production of knowledge on the subject. To this end, a bibliographic and documentary research was conducted on secondary sources (such as articles, theses and dissertations) and primary sources (such as UPA public policy laws and decrees, as well as semi-structured interviews applied to public policy implementers). From the analysis of public policies on UPA in the city of São Paulo, it was found that legislation and public programs establish several innovations, such as the possibility of access to public and private lands, collective land use, incentive to agro-ecological production, and the commercialisation of the state entity itself, among others. Such innovations are of paramount importance to break with the current paradigm of the capitalist system, especially with regard to the distribution of land and access to the resources present in it, and the change in the current mode of agricultural production in Brazil. However, while these incentives provide the basis for action by civil servants, they are not yet sufficient for the successful implementation of the program. Therefore, further study on the material and symbolic factors that hinder the implementation of AUP public policies in the city of São Paulo is recommended.

ANALYSING THE SOCIAL INNOVATION NETWORKS OF INTENTIONAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

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João Filipe Marques (CinTurs – Research Centre for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-Being, UAIG)

Hugo Pinto (CES - Centre for Social Studies, UC)

The number of ecovillages - intentional sustainable communities - has been showing signs of growth around the world. These self-organised groups can be seen as agents of change with the potential to contribute to the transition to a more sustainable environmental, social, economic and political paradigm. In fact, there is a growing interest in the academic production of the recent years on the analysis of these communities as potential agents of innovation, namely social innovation and grassroots innovation. Innovation, however, implies the existence of mechanisms of knowledge generation and diffusion, in both directions. This communication mobilises data from a survey applied to Intentional Sustainable Communities in Europe to identify the main dynamics of social innovation, the main barriers and enablers to the development of innovation practices, and the structure of the networks that these communities create for knowledge dissemination and collaboration. Thus, it is intended to draw a general framework about the potential of these communities to function as agents of innovation and social change, through an analysis around the importance of both agency and structure.

SOME INSIGHTS ON THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE SOCIAL INNOVATION PROCESS

Jorge Cunha (ALGORITMI Research Center, University of Minho)

Carla Ferreira (ALGORITMI Research Center, University of Minho)

Madalena Araújo (ALGORITMI Research Center, University of Minho)

Paul Benneworth (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)

This paper is focused on understanding the role that universities' might play in fostering the process of social innovation (and thus contributing to social change and societal development), considering the lack of research on this issue (Benneworth & Cunha, 2015). Hence, the paper makes a humble contribution to the literature by providing some insights on how universities can be engaged in the social innovation process. Since universities can be regarded as knowledge-intensive social institutions (Snellman, 2015), providing skilled workers, creating new knowledge, and being engaged in social and cultural activities in the region where they are located, they are well placed to address the knowledge-intensive societal challenges of the 21st century by promoting social entrepreneurship and social innovation (Cunha et al, 2015). As technological

innovation has driven knowledge economy, social innovation is important for the knowledge society. By pursuing technological innovation and business entrepreneurship initiatives, universities created science parks and business incubators. However, in the case of social innovation, it is not clear what kinds of infrastructures could be created or resources used by universities to stimulate social innovation beyond rather vague invocations of living laboratories (Edwards-Schachter et al., 2012). Actually, it is significant that much of the studies on universities entrepreneurship and engagement are couched in strictly economic terms with an emphasis on industrial linkages (Vorley and Nelles, 2008). Therefore, we direct our attention to how universities can contribute to the different stages of the social innovation process. This is important because there are few studies about how a regionally embedded university can effectively contribute to the social innovation process compared with those reporting universities' contribution to the process of technological innovation (Benneworth & Cunha, 2015).

PARALLEL SESSION 5

REGIONAL DYNAMICS AND INNOVATION

SPATIAL AUTOCORRELATION OF EXPORTS AND R&D EXPENDITURES IN PORTUGAL

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Luís Lopes (University of Coimbra)

Carlos Carreira (University of Coimbra)

This article seeks to analyse the spatial distribution pattern of Portugal's exports between its regions by groups of technological intensity, and at the same time to identify spatial autocorrelation associated with R&D spending. The study was based on the central idea which argues that exports have interdependence and spillover effects between nearby regions and a direct relationship with R&D spending. It was based on the new OECD taxonomy, which separates manufacturing and non-manufacturing activities by groups of technological intensity. Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis (AEDE) was used, employing the Global Moran Index (univariate and bivariate) and the LISA. The results showed the presence of positive spatial self-correlation of exports, especially for groups with higher technological intensity. The formation of a cluster of the Alto-Alto type was observed for the metropolitan regions of Porto and Aveiro, in the most technology-intensive groups. On the other hand, spatial autocorrelation has not been confirmed for R&D spending between regions in Portugal. However, there was a positive spatial autocorrelation of exports associated with R&D spending between the regions of Portugal and the formation of a regional cluster with a high-high standard for the region of Aveiro. The research suggests that this result can be explained, in part, by the fact that the Aveiro region is located surrounded by other regions (Porto, Coimbra and Viseu) which have Universities and research centres recognised nationally and internationally, which favours the knowledge spillovers between these regions.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND CYCLICAL SENSITIVITY IN SPAIN

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Aida Galiano (International University of La Rioja)

Antonio A. Golpe (International University of La Rioja)

Juan M. Martin (University of Huelva)

Unemployment has been routinely used as a measure of the economic cycle. In addition, regional unemployment rates are characterised by, among other factors, their relation to the national unemployment rate. In this regard, the literature on regional sensitivity to the economic cycle has analysed how fluctuations in the national unemployment rate affect the regions. In recent years, due to the great impact of past crises,

the development of new econometric techniques and the possible arrival of new crises, the debate on how sensitive regions are to the economic cycle has reopened. In Spain, this debate is necessary since unemployment rates are very high and display a great deal of heterogeneity. We analysed regional unemployment rates in Spain between 1978 and 2018 through a recently developed dynamic spatial econometric model with common factors and found that some regions are more sensitive than others to the economic cycle. The results seem to show that in Spain, the sensitivity to the economic cycle displays a geographical pattern where the most sensitive regions are those located on the Mediterranean coast. Specifically, we find that the sensitivity to the economic cycle of unemployment is not determined by the fact that regions have high or low unemployment; it seems that geographical location plays an important role. These results can be useful for the national and regional governments when they implement countercyclical policies.

REGIONAL EFFECTS OF TOURISM IN PORTUGAL: A MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Hugo S. Gonçalves (Faculty of Economics, University of Algarve)

Jorge M. Andraz (Faculty of Economics, University of Algarve and CEFAGE (UALG) – Centre for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics)

This paper estimates the effects of tourism on regional private-sector variables with the objective of assessing tourism's contribution to economic growth and regional asymmetries. The analysis identifies the regional distribution of the effects of tourism in the country, the greatest beneficiaries from spillover effects and the greatest contributor regions to national economic growth and regional asymmetries. This research brings new evidence of tourism as a tool of economic growth and to reduce regional asymmetries in Portugal and it is therefore an important contribution to the related literature. The methodology is based on the estimation of vector autoregressive models for Portugal and for each region, distinguishing between direct effects and spillover effects. Tourism has promoted long-term growth in Portugal through direct and spillover effects. Lisbon and Centro are the regions that benefit the most, while the Alentejo gets the lowest effects. The direct effects are generally more important in the central regions of Centro and Lisbon, while spillovers are more relevant in the Algarve and the Norte. Moreover, private investment in these latter regions benefits largely from tourism elsewhere. While contributing to the country's economic performance, tourism in Centro and Alentejo also contributes to reduce regional asymmetries, but tourism in Lisbon strengthens the country's macrocephaly.

DETERMINANTS OF LIQUIDITY: THE CASE OF GREECE

Beatriz Gonçalves, Luís Coelho, Ruben Peixinho (Faculty of Economics - University of Algarve)

This study investigates the empirical determinants of corporate cash holdings for a sample of Small and Medium-sized (SME) firms from Greece. The sample contains 1002 SME Greek firms for the period 2005-2012. This period is particularly important since it includes years that both precede and post-date the outset of the world's last global financial and economic crisis, which started in 2008. Using panel data methods, we show that the sample firms' cash holdings are positively affected by their growth opportunities and negatively affected by their size, leverage and net working capital. These results are in line with the predictions of trade-off theory and, to some extent, with those of the pecking order theory. Importantly, our empirical evidence also suggests that the financial and economic crisis affected our sample firms' cash holdings decisions since Greek SMEs seem to hold less cash in their balance sheet after 2008.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EVENT

This event took place in the form of a set of webinars, between 28 September and 2 October. During these days, two plenary sessions, five parallel sessions and a focus group were held.

The webinar started with Hugo Pinto, the event organiser, giving a brief introduction of the workshop and explaining its main objectives. He also underlined his gratitude towards the APDR - Portuguese Association for Regional Development - and CES - Centre for Social Studies - for organising the event, as well as to the Atlantic Social Lab project and the Atlantic Area program for being its main catalysts, and to CinTurs - Research Centre for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-Being of the University of Algarve – for the organisational support, and to all the participants for their interest. Subsequently, Hugo Pinto presented the two keynote speakers of the first plenary session: Flor Avelino, from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam; and Mike Danson, from the Heriot-Watt University.

Flor Avelino presented the theme **“Power dynamics in transformative social innovation”**, starting by emphasising the socio-political and socio-economic changes present in the world today. Transformative social innovation gains greater importance in this topic, based on her assumption that social and technological innovations are not enough to solve community problems and that innovations are designed to change, challenge and replace previously valid concepts. The theme presented by the speaker is based on three premises: first, it implies a change in social relations; second, it is renewed, taking into account new forms of thinking, organisation and "know-how" present in society; and third, it emphasises individual and collective empowerment and criticises power relations. Power relations can be problematic and the concept of power itself develops in several dichotomies, the most notable being the division between self-interest and collective goals. The definition of power is not consensual, in fact it can be seen as an instrument of human power, as for Michael Mann, or even as a form of non-physical violence thus remaining a physical order, as for Michael Foucault, and a separation between violence and the concept of power, as for Hannah Arendt. In short, the transformation of social innovation suggests a greater accessibility of policies, their greater diffusion but with the awareness that the problems that led to this social innovation could be aggravated in the first place and, finally, a recognition of the existence of a transformative changes paradox, focused on translocal and cross-section solidarity.

Michael Danson introduced the theme **“Community resilience, sustainability and success on the margins and peripheries”**, focusing on the role of Scottish coastal communities in solving problems, which are also affected by the spillover effects associated with supply chains. To illustrate it, he presents the case of the communities of Hebrides and surrounding islands. The objective of these communities is to promote greater sustainability and a circular economy, thus trying to solve environmental problems associated with global warming, poverty, inequality and alienation. Some of the successful results achieved on these islands are more housing, more incidence of renewable energy, better forest and agricultural planning, better health care, a greater number of companies, greater employment, greater preservation of culture, greater social capital and greater intergenerational planning. Danson presents a different model, already tested in the Nordic countries, with companies focused on social innovation and community experiences. The marginal and peripheral areas must be the target of economic investments because they manage to supply the basic needs of the poorest as well as market failures and to promote a circular economy, a future with more benefits in terms of social security and added value for money. Thus, the speaker highlights two concepts, namely community and resilience, and their interconnection. Resilience is the ability of systems to deal with shocks and recover from adversity, also known as “bouncing back” (Theobald), which he conjugates with the analysis of indicators on community strength and their respective results, thus pointing out at a gradual increase of power and resilience in the territory, with more opportunities to be generated. Indeed, an innovation system emphasises and integrates the essential links between resilience and social capital, as well as between its stakeholder network and the cohesion of its community.

This plenary session aimed to outline a general and international picture of the theme of social innovation, and mainly, of its transformative potential, together with the importance of communities for sustainable development. This session had a total of 32 attendants. The video of the opening session can be consulted [here](#).

The second day of the workshop focused on a parallel session that discussed the issues of **tourism and territorial renewal**. The set of communications presented sought to bring various ways of thinking about tourism, its practices and its territories, namely from a more consolidated perspective in its value and social impact rather than from a purely economic perspective. This session had four communications, with a total of 16 attendants.

The first speaker, **Ana Rita Cruz**, presented a communication entitled **“Past, present and future of creative tourism in Portugal: analysing actors and connection dynamics”** in order to introduce the CREATOUR project - a project that analyses creative tourism destinations in small cities and rural areas. The work had the specific objective of perceiving the networks established between the different actors of creative tourism at national level.

Next, **Olivia Martins** would introduce us to the theme **“Behind the formation of networks: tourist routes in areas of low competitiveness”**, a theoretical work aimed at enhancing more deserted territories and at trying to respond to emerging socio-economic problems. The objective should be a flexible network that promotes sustainability, thus differentiating tourism in terms of supply and cultural possibilities with economics and social inclusion as integral parts of a collaborative relationship and with a theoretical framework that allows for an added socioeconomically value.

Later, **Fábio Sampaio** presented the topic **“How can cities combine their governance paradigms with social innovation for an inclusive urban regeneration? URBiNAT Study Case”**. The URBiNAT project focuses on the regeneration and integration of deprived social housing districts. Interventions focus on the public space in order to co-create with citizens new urban, social and nature-based relations within and between different neighbourhoods. The project is still under development and seeks to combine social innovation with the development of these marginalised areas.

Finally, **Maria Assunção Gato** presented the theme **“From urban overtourism to an empty city: how to reignite urban tourism after Covid-19?”**, being the mass tourism in Lisbon her main focus. Besides showing the impacts of the pandemic in the national and global tourism context, the speaker highlights this phase as a future opportunity to be able to rethink urban models, investments and economic diversification, and participation models, while ensuring, at the same time, that communities receive benefits from a new tourism concept.

From creative tourism to tourist routes in low-density areas as well as urban regeneration through social innovation and the post-pandemic context, this session raised a set of reflections that allow us to situate the theme of tourism in a perspective of inclusion and territorial development. The presentations of this parallel session are available [here](#).

The third day of the event had two parallel sessions. The first, entitled **“Spaces for sustainable social innovation”**, featured a set of communications that discussed the link between social innovation and sustainability. It had five communications and 17 attendants.

The first communication of this parallel session was entitled **“Social innovation in Portugal – where are we and what are we doing?”**. **Joana Dias** portrayed the overall picture of the Portuguese social innovation scene, focusing on the major research centres and laboratories that work on the subject and some of the organisations that act like hubs for social innovation initiatives. The presentation also showed the results of the underlying research conducted by the authors, that is how these organisations perceive and interpret social innovation.

The second speaker, **Gilda Farrell**, presented a communication entitled **“Defining common spaces as key components of a sustainable perspective”**. The presentation focused on the notion of common spaces and the contributions it can give to social innovation research. The author stressed the need to consider social innovation from a symbiotic point of view and not solely as a social process, since it should also consider environmental dimensions.

The third presentation was **“Constructing inter-generational arts space: places and potentialities”** by **Anthony Killick**. The presentation addressed the generational gap between older and younger generations and proposed the usage of shared art spaces as social infrastructures that can bridge the generational gap by bonding both generations through their shared interest in art. He also added that cities can be planned with such spaces in mind, instead of promoting a spatial divide between older and younger generations.

For the fourth presentation, **Marina Novikova** talked about **“Social innovation in the development of rural regions: experience of the Austrian region of Muehlviertel”**. The communication discussed the articulation of social innovation and rural studies, stressing some of the key characteristics that distinguish social innovation and social organisations that work on social innovation in a rural context from their urban counterparts.

The fifth and closing presentation was from **Silvia Fernandes**, entitled **“Sustainable tourism: is there a path from sustainability indexes to innovative governance?”**. The authors showed results of their research focusing on two major goals: evaluating open access academic works that use sustainability indicators for tourism governance and considering if there are governance strategies for sustainable tourism that use these indicators.

This parallel session featured a set of communications that discussed the link between social innovation and sustainability. For this discussion, several cases were presented that illustrate the spaces where this connection takes place. Dimensions such as common spaces, inter-generational, rural regions and innovative governance were the foundations that supported the debate. To consider the desirable development for contemporary societies implies rethinking paradigms and emphasizing the importance of innovative solutions based on sustainability. The presentations of this parallel session are available [here](#).

The second session of this day was entitled **“Learning for social innovation”** and it was composed by five communications, counting with a total of 23 attendants. The parallel session opened with the presentation from **Jorge Cunha** named **“Development of a conceptual process model and metrics framework for social innovation”**. The author presented an approach for the measurement of social innovation impact, by integrating micro, meso and macro levels of analysis, and a mix-methods approach in a logic of complementarity and versatility, drawing from different disciplinary sources.

The second presentation was **“DIVE project: sharing experiences of non-formal education on social entrepreneurship”** by **Teresa Dieguez**. The presentation was mostly on the subject of social entrepreneurship and the experience of the European project DIVE, with the authors discussing some of the history of the concept and its application in informal educational contexts.

Then **Margarida Monteiro** introduced a communication entitled **“Social learning and innovations in sustainability transitions – a research in progress”**. The communication focused on the findings from the project TRUST (social innovation sTRategies for sUSTainability transitions), related with social innovation and transformative processes based on sustainable transitions.

The fourth presentation of the session, **“Demand profile of ecovillage tourists in Portugal: a sociological and economic perspective”**, presented by **Michelle Moraes**, showed some preliminary results of an on-going research about ecovillages/organic farms and sustainable tourism. Its objective is to define a “persona” through the identification of the typologies of agents who choose this type of tourism.

The closing presentation, **“Tracking the Portuguese community-based initiatives landscape: the role of politicisation and institutional frameworks”**, was presented by **Alexandra Bussler**. The communication focused on community-based initiatives and how they can be catalysts for a social change towards sustainability by drawing on transition literature, thus highlighting the politization gap and lack of political visibility as well as how the institutional framework greatly hinders community-based initiatives in Portugal.

This session discussed some tools that make social innovation possible. Social innovation is a concept that is far from being consensual and, therefore, it is necessary to use practical dimensions to infer theoretical explanations. From the proposal of a measurement instrument, through non-formal education for social entrepreneurship, through sustainable transitions, eco-villages, to institutional frameworks, the perspectives discussed were diverse. The presentations of this parallel session are available [here](#).

The fourth day also had two parallel sessions. The first, entitled **Social innovation and communities**, had five presentations and 25 participants. The parallel session opened with the presentation of **Fernando Gaspar** named **“Dreamers and starters: are ecosystems fostering entrepreneurship in Portugal?”**. This communication sought to draw a parallel and evaluate the correlation between the companies that start their registration (dreamers) and those that continue the process and deliver staff maps (starters). In general, the presentation

concludes that there is a greater number of "dreamers" than "starters", a fact that constitutes a problem for the Portuguese ecosystem.

The next communication, "**Olive oil cooperatives as a medium of social innovation in the Andalusian countryside**", was introduced by **José Martínez**, who analysed the agricultural sector of Andalusia in terms of social innovation, taking into account the challenges and competitiveness present in the region. The departing point is whether cooperatives can be one of the fundamental elements for the development of rural regions in Andalusia, which is very concentrated in terms of smallholdings.

Later, **Katia Carolino** presented the theme "**Urban and peri-urban agriculture public policy: an analysis of normative instruments in the city of São Paulo (Brazil)**" whose objective is to understand the lack of urban planning in the city and to discover mechanisms of social innovation that minimise poverty in the area, as well as reduce segregation and food insecurity.

The fourth communication, presented by **Carla Nogueira**, focused on the "**Analysis of the social innovation networks of intentional sustainable communities in Europe**". The analysis introduced demonstrates that the networks established by these communities are dependent on a central organisation and have many structural holes.

Jorge Cunha gave the last presentation of the first parallel session of the day, with a communication entitled "**Some insights on the role of universities in the social innovation process**" and whose objective is the development of a social innovation structure, taking into account the influence of the university and the community and their divergent effect.

Social innovation generally arises in micro contexts, with characteristics of community social organization. This session presented case studies from different community contexts and the processes of social innovation that developed there. The communications analysed several specific cases such as the rural territory of Andalusia, urban agriculture in Brazil, intentional sustainable communities in Europe, entrepreneurship in Portugal and the role of universities. The presentations of this parallel session are available [here](#).

The second parallel session focused on **regional dynamics** and featured a set of four communications that presented quantitative investigations to illustrate the relationship between innovation and regional development. A total of 17 participants attended.

Beatriz Gonçalves' work presents us the "**Determinants of liquidity: the case of Greece**", a different approach compared to the other countries already analysed. Overall, Greece is a country whose business ecosystem is mainly composed of SMEs. The model revealed to have multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation, producing robust fixed effects before problems.

António Campos, in turn, in his communication "**Spatial autocorrelation of exports and R&D in Portugal**" analysed the technological "gaps" between countries. The results of the model proved that there is an autocorrelation between Portuguese regions related to exports, with the formation of clusters in Porto and in the region of Trás-os-Montes, thus confirming one of the hypotheses of the work (existence of autocorrelation).

Then, **Alejandro Almeida** introduced us to the theme "**Regional unemployment and cyclical sensitivity in Spain**", where it is estimated the link between the regional unemployment rate and the national unemployment rate in each region. Regional unemployment ends being the result of the correlation in space and time, parallel to unemployment at the national level and with a strong level of heterogeneity between all regions.

The last presentation was made by **Hugo Gonçalves** and entitled "**Regional effects of tourism in Portugal: a multivariate analysis**". This communication proved the existence of major spillover effects at regional level, with different benefits when taking into account domestic tourism and international tourism and with tourism promotion policies capable of generating greater economic growth and reducing asymmetries.

This parallel session focused on regional dynamics and featured a set of communications that presented quantitative investigations to illustrate the relationship between innovation and regional development. The debate focused more on innovation in its most traditional sense, namely on R&D exports, regional unemployment, the regional effects of tourism and the determinants of liquidity. The presentations of this parallel session are available [here](#).

The last day of the workshop was divided in two moments: a focus group on the "**Transformative potential of social innovation for regional development**" and the final plenary session. The focus group was attended by several regional actors from the social innovation ecosystem and aimed to promote a multi-level and multi-sectoral discussion on the importance of social innovation for regional development. The discussion was focused on the dimension of territorial needs and the difficulties that social innovation organisations encounter, mainly in this new pandemic context.

The closing session included three communications: Mário do Vale ("**Institutional relationship, technology and sustainability in economic geography: a sympathetic criticism**"), Sílvia Ferreira ("**Public policies and governance of social innovation**") and Filipe Almeida ("**Portugal Social Innovation: a pioneering policy of development**"). These communications were articulated with each other, in the sense that the first outlined an institutional framework, the second focused on the issue of public policies and the last presented the specific case of Portugal Social Innovation. It had 16 attendants.

Mário do Vale presentation began with the definition of social innovation, advocating the fact that the concept is ambiguous, transversal, difficult to operationalise and focused on solving contemporary problems. The communication was centred on regional diversification. Regional diversification takes into account two types of institutions that are formal institutions, where the emergence of new technologies and their diffusion prevail over the informal ones which, in turn, are generally devalued in this process and constitute the second type of institutions mentioned above. The social innovation process, indeed, goes through institutions and social changes via systems and agencies.

Although the authors warn about a greater distinction between different institutional dimensions of institutional relations, the study's conclusion states that the intervention of public policies, external links and donations at regional level leads to a more sustainable transition.

The main theme of **Sílvia Ferreira's** presentation was public policies and social innovation, with the general challenges of moving towards a Schumpeterian, post-industrial, social investment model, thus multiplying "governance" scales based on networks with a plurality of models of democracy and found on social entrepreneurs.

In the speaker's perspective, governance should move from Fordism techniques to a permanent innovation based on learning, flexibility and the existence of networks, using sociotechnical models whose characteristics invoke innovation as an engine of social and economic development. The change is therefore ontological, not questioned and thus capable of leading to the naturalisation of the idea that organisations and people need to change.

Finally, the presentation by **Filipe Almeida** from the organisation Portugal Inovação Social states that the initiative brought new ideas and answers to problems, financing actions through the European Social Fund, and it is currently worth 150M € from partnerships and social investment.

In conclusion, the speaker highlighted the importance of contributions to regional development, which prioritizes less developed regions with innovative responses based on territory and local based social entrepreneurship, thus mobilising investment and forming inter-sector partnerships with a focus on impact and innovation. He also stresses the importance of an activation team of regional representatives, taking into account its proximity to the municipalities.

In sum, the three presentations stressed the importance of public policies and of sustainable economic growth that advances the development of the different areas of the region, respecting the current economic sectors and framing all actors as well as all existing governance models. The communications of this closing plenary session can be consulted [here](#).

This workshop stimulated an inter-sector dialogue among researchers, activists, local, regional and national policy makers, associations, non-governmental organisations, practitioners of social innovation and social entrepreneurs. Through all communications it was possible to discuss the state of the art of social innovation in Regional Science and the contemporary challenges for sustainability. This event promoted the reflection and knowledge-sharing on social innovation practices connected with sustainability and regional development, and contributed to the visibility of social innovation as a central topic for the transformation of society towards a more sustainable future.



sustainability



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Social Innovation towards Sustainability: Embracing Contemporary Challenges for Regional Development

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Message from the Guest Editors

The Special Issue aims to discuss the state of the art in social innovation and the contemporary challenge of sustainability, and topics of discussion will regard, among others, social innovation, microscale innovation, transformative innovation, sustainability transitions, and community-based sustainability projects.

We are particularly interested in proposals related to these thematic fields:

- On innovation: studies, reflections, and examples about innovation(s) that, particularly, are concerned with emphasizing sustainability and regional development;
- On transformation: studies, reflections, and examples focused on sustainability transitions, multilevel perspectives, transferability and scaling up, and their relationships with innovation and regional development;
- Doing it: Examples of real-world applications in developing innovation practices and policies that address social and environmental needs.



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Special Issue



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