

57th ERSa CONGRESS "Social Progress for Resilient Regions"
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Special Session:

**The social dimension of entrepreneurship
in the context of economic crisis**

Convenors:

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The recent economic crisis has affected national and regional economies, firms and entrepreneurs across Europe. In times of economic contraction and uncertainty, many strategic decisions with respect to starting-up a business, firm (re)investments and relocation, or hiring employees are postponed or even discarded. This is not to say, however, that entrepreneurs have silently and passively awaited better times. The economic downturn has also created opportunities; and as such may have affected decisions and behaviour of entrepreneurs. This includes, for instance, living and housing conditions, part-time work and combining self-employment with a paid job, home-work combinations, the identification of market niches and business strategies. Moreover, as many governments retreated from several societal domains, many (entrepreneurial) people have felt socially responsible and acted accordingly (Stephan et al., 2014).

This special session focusses on the social dimension of entrepreneurship: the social processes that constitute entrepreneurship, the everyday processes and activities of entrepreneurs in relation to multiple actors and stakeholders (Steyaert and Katz, 2004; Johannisson 2011). This includes a variety of adaptive responses that have helped to mitigate the negative effects of the economic crisis across Europe and as such, contributed to resilience in regions and cities (Gawell, 2013).

Papers are welcome that address these social and everyday processes of entrepreneurship and/or social outcomes of entrepreneurial decisions in relation to economic restructuring and resilience:

- What new forms and (daily) practices of entrepreneurship have resulted from economic uncertainty and hardship?
- How have family and family support mechanisms shaped the entrepreneurial process in times of economic crisis?
- To what extent has the economic downturn changed entrepreneurs' response to the needs of society in general and in particular their economic, social and societal business goals?
- How does the economic crisis relate to social entrepreneurship and social innovation, what are international experiences?

Please note:

- 1) Initial submission for special sessions is on the basis of an extended abstract (1500 word including contribution, theoretical framework, empirical approach and / or first results) or a draft paper (between 5000 and 10,000 words). The deadline is February 10th, 2017.
- 2) All presenters upload a full (draft) paper (deadline June 9th 2017).

Gawell, M. (2013), 'Social entrepreneurship: action grounded in needs, opportunities and/or perceived necessities?', *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 24 (4), 1071-90.
Johannisson, B. (2011), 'Towards a practice theory of entrepreneuring', *Small Business Economics*, 36 (2), 135-50.
Stephan, U., L.M. Uhlaner and C. Stride (2014), 'Institutions and social entrepreneurship: the role of institutional voids, institutional support, and institutional configurations', *Journal of International Business Studies*, 46, 308-31.
Steyaert, C. and J. Katz (2004), 'Reclaiming the space of entrepreneurship in society: geographical, discursive and social dimensions', *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 16 (1), 179-196.