

# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

## Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

<b>Title: 'We are Victims and entrepreneurs' – Social Enterprise during turbulent times in Greece</b>
<p><b>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</b></p> <p>The research aims to explore the expansion rural social enterprise in Greece as a result of the recent economic crisis and recession. These resulted in reduced access to health care and social services across the country at a time when poverty and social exclusion were increasing. The response of the society was the creation of social enterprises. However, the social enterprises in rural areas were called to operate in a new challenging environment as there was no tradition in social entrepreneurship.</p>
<p><b>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</b></p> <p>The research was built upon 35 interviews of social enterprises in rural areas.</p>
<p><b>Findings</b></p> <p>The findings indicate that social entrepreneurship contributes significantly in rural economy and at the same time the social enterprises attempt to create positive social impact in turbulent economic times. However, social entrepreneurs expected to get contracts with the public sector after the collapse of the public social services. The expectation of contracts from the state did not translate into action and the research reveals failures and hardship as a result. The social enterprises that operate independently and they don't expect support from the central government perform better. The EU funding, local authorities and local networks are factors with strong impact on the rural social enterprises.</p>
<p><b>Practical implications</b></p> <p>This research captures the factors affecting the development of social enterprises in periods of economic crisis and their importance. There is an interrelation between rural social enterprises and rural resilience which becomes even stronger in periods of economic crisis.</p>
<p><b>Policy Implications (if applicable)</b></p> <p>This research can act as navigator to central government and public authorities in order to redesign the existing legal framework towards more friendly direction for the social</p>

enterprises in rural areas.

**What is the originality/value of paper**

The research advances research by examining the extent that the formation of rural social enterprise has addressed the crisis induced service-gap within rural areas.

**Please state if your paper is a:**

Refereed research paper      Practitioner Paper      Presentation only

**Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:**

- Entrepreneurship, farming and the natural environment
- Digital Rural Entrepreneurship
- International dimensions of rural entrepreneurship
- New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement
- Opportunities and challenges for rural development
- Rural Innovation, EU funding and the role of Universities
- Rural Social Entrepreneurship
- Rural Place Marketing

**Are you interested in the Early-Career researcher development seminar on the 14<sup>th</sup> June?**

Yes  No

To apply to participate in the Early-Career research development seminar, PhD applicants must submit a short project description (max 4 pages) with name, project title, affiliation, outline of methodology(ies) and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Post-doctoral researchers should submit a short description of their current research interest (max 1 page).