

# Expanded abstract

## Analysis of entrepreneurship resources in the Spanish Social Economy

### Objectives

This work comprehensively addresses the current situation of entrepreneurship resources within Spain's social economy. One of its main objectives is to assess the current conditions that influence the development of social entrepreneurship, including identifying gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and opportunities that could be exploited to improve this environment. This objective leads to specific actions to promote the growth and effectiveness of entrepreneurial initiatives in the social economy, highlighting the importance of training for entrepreneurs and access to financing as fundamental pillars.

As a starting proposal, we consider that the COVID-19 pandemic has altered labor standards and transformed workers' preferences, leading many people, especially the new generations, to seek jobs that align with their values and social and environmental sustainability goals. Through this analysis, the article attempts to provide a diagnosis that can be useful for public policymakers to design strategies that promote social entrepreneurship at both the national and European levels, thus contributing to a more cohesive and sustainable vision of economic development. These objectives reflect a proactive approach to addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities facing the social economy in a contemporary context.

### The methodological design

The study's methodology is qualitative, with semi-structured interviews as the primary data collection tool. Twenty interviews were carried out with people designated by the entities that participated in the study and are linked to entrepreneurship in the social economy. These entities were selected according to geographical scope, representing entities embodying different geographical realities in Spain. Secondly, according to the entity type, an attempt was made to include the various entities that make up the Spanish social economy panorama. Thirdly, this representation will be determined according to the interest and specificity of the contribution of the entrepreneurship resource. An interview script was designed to optimize the information collected, covering different thematic areas and seeking to explore experiences and perceptions about the social economy and entrepreneurship. These interviews made it possible to delve deeper into the agents' experiences, providing a wealth of information content.

In addition, pilot tests were conducted to adjust the interview script and the time to conduct the interviews, contributing to the procedure's efficiency. On the other hand, it also made it possible to adjust the maximum interview duration to 60 minutes. This circumstance was considered of special relevance given the people interviewed's profiles of responsibility within their organizations. The interviews were conducted online through the Microsoft Teams

platform, thus ensuring adequate contact and an environment conducive to data collection. The information collected was recorded with the consent of the participants to facilitate its subsequent processing and analysis. All information collected was processed and analyzed exclusively through the iterative data collection and analysis process comprising the qualitative methodology. This approach allowed the triangulation of data, integrating various theoretical and testimonial elements, thus ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of entrepreneurship in the social economy in Spain.

## Results

The study results reveal that entrepreneurship in the social economy sector in Spain has distinctive characteristics that differentiate it from traditional entrepreneurship, standing out mainly for its capacity to generate a positive and sustainable social impact. The participating entities noted that social entrepreneurship initiatives tend to drive innovation and offer profitable products and services that contribute to social and environmental well-being.

The study identified several barriers to entrepreneurship development in this sector, including a lack of financial resources and limited access to specialized training for entrepreneurs. However, essential drivers of entrepreneurship in the social economy were also observed, such as the growing interest of new generations in working in environments that prioritize sustainability and social cohesion. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated this paradigm shift, with an increased demand for business models that promote work-life balance and a commitment to responsible and ethical business practices.

Consequently, the study suggests that public policies that strengthen the social economy entrepreneurship ecosystem, improve access to resources, and support the creation of collaborative networks that can enhance emerging initiatives in this field are essential. These findings provide a diagnosis of social entrepreneurship in Spain and serve as a basis for future comparisons concerning the impact of new policies and programs to support the social economy sector.

## Original Value and Contribution

The study stands out for its original approach to analyzing social economy entrepreneurship in Spain in the post-pandemic context. This area has received relatively little attention in the current literature. The work undertaken provides an in-depth insight into the experiences and perceptions of the actors involved in social economy entrepreneurship. It identifies the main obstacles and opportunities faced by this sector. The research contributes to an in-depth understanding of how social economy entities have demonstrated remarkable resilience in times of crisis, highlighting their essential role in generating quality employment and promoting social cohesion.

In addition, the study provides a critical assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, which allows for the development of concrete recommendations for formulating public policies that support the growth and stability of social economy entrepreneurship. By integrating theory and practice, this research opens new avenues for future studies and developing initia-

tives that promote the social economy, emphasizing its relevance in constructing a more sustainable and equitable economic model in Spain. Therefore, we can conclude that the article contributes to the debate on social economy entrepreneurship in Spain, offering new angles of analysis and proposals that can influence future policies and practices in the sector.