

Social Entrepreneurship and Employability

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Nowadays, the concept of social entrepreneurship is a subject of discussion in academic environment as well as in the implementation of entrepreneurial initiatives. Although this concept is gaining popularity, there is certain confusion and controversy over its meaning, therefore, it can mean different things to different people (Guzmán and Trujillo, 2008). Thus, some authors conceive the term in a narrower sense, limiting it to non-profit organizations from the tertiary sector (Dees, 2011), while other authors support a broader meaning, including organizations in which social interest prevails over the economic one, whether they have a mercantile dimension or not. This is connected with the concept of social economy (Chaves and Monzón, 2017), which has a great tradition in Europe and in most countries of Latin America, where the concepts of social and solidarity economy are identified.

However, generally in Europe and more in particular, in Spain, there is a tendency of considering a project as social entrepreneurship when there is a social and sustainable value creation, which is not incompatible with the creation of economic value. Then, the social mission would be the main criteria of these entrepreneurships as well as market-based approaches in order to address global social problems (Dacin, Dacin and Tracey, 2011; Short, Moss, & Lumpkin, 2009).

The economical, technological and social developments in the last few years (including the recent 2008 global financial crisis) have led to a recent search and development of innovative social initiatives associated to the territory and improvement of the employability, as well as overcoming social exclusion, which has to be one of the fundamental pillars. In this context, the social enterprises and the educational institutions should be important agents in the development of strategies for the implementation of new types of employment and entrepreneurial behaviours among young people (Coque, Bretones, and López, 2013). In fact, one of the Millennium Development Goals is to achieve a better employability among the citizens, therefore, the social entrepreneurships play an important role in this sense.

We should understand this concept of employability as a set of competencies that improve someone's ability to find a job and use employment and career opportunities both inside and outside of the current workplace (Fugate, Kinicki, and Ashforth, 2004). Some of these competencies (Van der Heijde and Van der Heijden, 2006) will be related with their professional experience, their ability to anticipate and optimize, the degree of resilience and adaptability or the balance between personal interests and priorities with the ones of the work team and the organization.

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As we can see, all these competencies can be developed and enhanced by entrepreneurial experiences, hence, we need to analyse the connection between new types of social entrepreneurship and its social impact on employability.

In this sense, this monographic issue of the journal REVESCO aims to investigate these aspects through a selection of some talks among the more than 50 talks presented by researchers of more than 20 universities at the Congress on Employability, Social Entrepreneurship and Territorial Development, held in the autonomous city of Melilla between the 31st of May and the 1st of June of 2018 and organized by the Faculty of Work Sciences of the University of Granada, the Faculty of Social and Legal Sciences of Melilla, the Cooperative Studies School of the Complutense University of Madrid and the Social Entrepreneurship Chair UCM-Santander. All of them reflect several studies with research on these concepts (social entrepreneurship, employability and territorial development) in enterprises of participation with an international perspective.

Thus, as stated in the first article of the issue by Javier Sánchez Espada, Sonia Martín López, Paloma Bel Durán and Gustavo Lejarriaga Pérez de las Vacas, and titled *Education and training in social entrepreneurship: characteristics and creation of social and sustainable value in projects of social entrepreneurship*, the social value can be shown in different ways: acting in an environmentally-friendly way, promoting social inclusion, acting in a socially responsible way, contributing in groups that require social attention not covered properly by the State or setting formulas for the creation of stable employment, territorial development and social cohesion. And all of these, in a non-exhaustive way.

The authors believe that every initiative and new project, in which social value is created (Sastre, Peris and Danvila, 2015), in any form of concretion, has to be considered as social entrepreneurship, and in this sense, there are legal formulas specially adapted to accommodate projects of social entrepreneurship; they are indeed those ones that get integrated into the concepts of organizations of participation (García-Gutiérrez, 1989) and social economy (Monzón and Chaves, 2008).

Every project of social entrepreneurship leads to actions that unquestionably contribute to the territorial development, as recognised by the European institutions (Enciso, Gómez, and Mugarra, 2012). For instance, that is the case of the document of Conclusions of the European Union Council “The promotion of social economy as the key driver of economic and social development in Europe” or “The Madrid Declaration”, signed on the 23rd of May of 2017. In this document, 11 countries claim a strong momentum in Social Economy on the political agenda, as it is considered a priority business model for a sustainable future in which social and economic cohesion is prioritised, contributing to an innovative, intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as the creation of quality employment in Europe.

Based on the above, this issue includes contributions about social entrepreneurship as a key factor for the territorial development with an inherent capacity for the creation of stable employment from different perspectives: based on education in terms of entrepreneurship, under a gender-based approach, and considering the way of understanding the concept in an international environment.

In conclusion, we believe that this special issue offers a varied and supplementary view about the reality of social entrepreneurship in different territories and its connection with

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people's employability. Also, this issue attempts to be a display of ideas and experiences on new social and collective entrepreneurs, and especially as a response to the necessities of the most vulnerable social groups and peripheral territories. We hope we achieved that.

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