

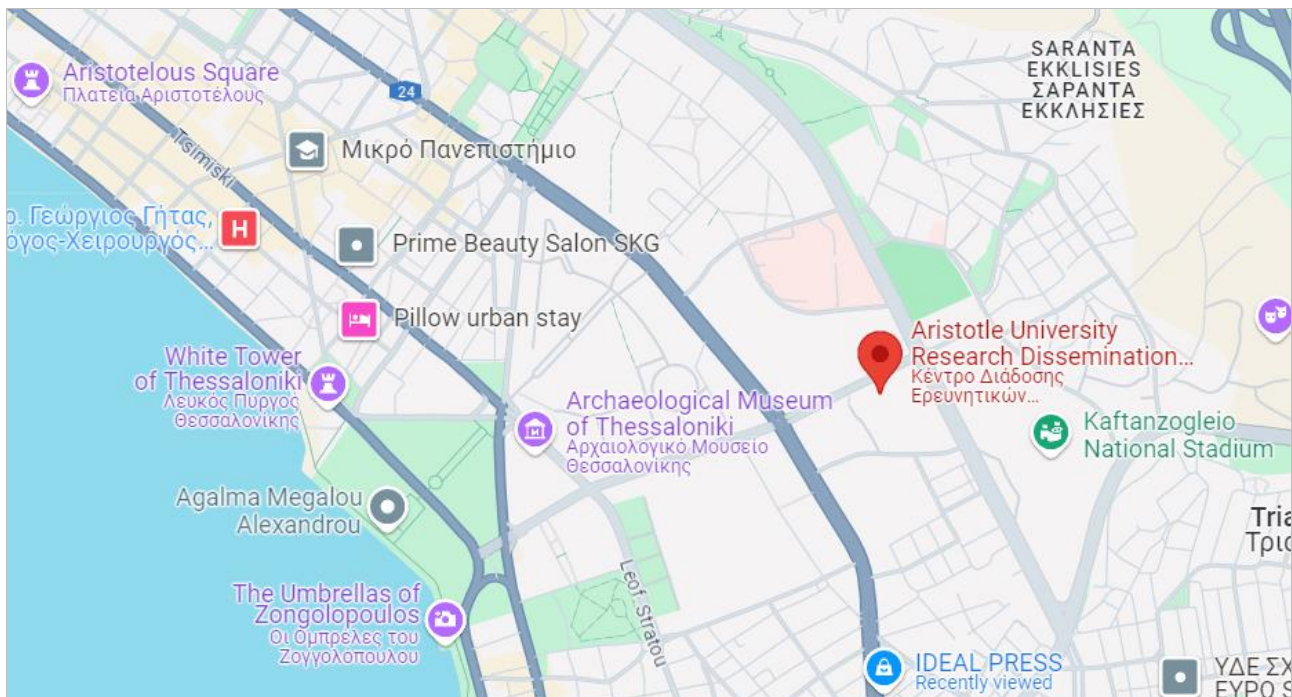


Kick-off Meeting Agenda

10-11 December 2024

General information

Host	ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
Location	Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center (KEDEA), THESSALONIKI, GREECE
Mini Conference	11 December 2024, 14:00-18:30
Contact person	Chatzichristos Georgios, chatzichristos@polsci.auth.gr



INTERNATIONAL MINI CONFERENCE Advancing Social Economy for Inclusive Communities

The COVID-19 crisis exposed weaknesses in individuals, communities, and economies, while the recent Ukraine invasion led to instability, inflation, and challenges to international cooperation. These external crises highlight the need to reassess the organisation of social and economic activities, urging robust responses centered on solidarity, cooperation, and accountability. The Social Economy (SE) stands at a critical juncture, facing challenges that demand innovative solutions to foster genuine

social inclusion. One of the foremost challenges is bridging economic divides within communities, as traditional economic structures often fail to support marginalized groups effectively. SE holds the potential to create spaces where collaborative, community-driven models can thrive, empowering individuals through shared ownership and mutual support. Yet, sustaining these models requires addressing issues of scalability and resilience, ensuring that they remain impactful over time without losing their foundational social values. Additionally, accurately assessing the outcomes of these initiatives poses another challenge; measuring social impact goes beyond traditional metrics and calls for nuanced, adaptable approaches that truly capture the long-term social benefits of inclusion-focused efforts. Despite these hurdles, the opportunities are vast: by prioritizing cooperation, transparency, and measurable outcomes, the SE can build a more inclusive society where economic progress is aligned with social well-being. This conference offers a unique platform for addressing the pressing challenges and exploring the transformative potential of the social economy in driving inclusive communities.

December 11 th , 2024, 14:00 – 18:00 (EEST)		
Time (EEST)	Description	
14:00-14:30	Arrival of participants	
14:30-14:40	Welcome and Conference opening	
14:40-15:40	Session A: Inclusive Communities	
14:40-15:00	A1 “ <i>Fostering inclusive communities through cooperative housing models</i> ”	Pr Richard Lang Director of Competence Centre Management of Cooperatives, UNIBZ
15:00-15:20	A2: “ <i>Problematizing the ‘rural’: languages, knowledge production and decoloniality</i> ”	Pr Menelaos Gkartzios , Prof of Planning, IZTE
15:20-15:40	Discussion	
15:40-16:40	Session B: Cooperative and Social Economy	
15:40-16:00	B1: “ <i>Cooperative economic activity for the common good? Civil society and the provision of services of general interest</i> ”	Dr. Joschka Moldenhauer Research assistant at the Seminar for Cooperative Research, UZK
16:00-16:20	B2: “ <i>Intersectional lenses on social enterprises and social economy: social and economic value creation, diverse human economy, working conditions and community asset</i> ”	Pr Linda Lundgaard Andersen , Prof in Learning, Evaluation and Social innovation, RUC
16:20-16:40	Discussion	
16:40-17:40	Session C: Social Impact Assessment	
16:40-17:00	C1: “ <i>Innovative approaches to social impact measurement: a focus on the potential of artificial intelligence solutions</i> ”	Pr Marta Solorzano Garcia , Prof of Business Org, UNED
17:00-17:20	C2: “ <i>Locally integrating social impact assessment methodologies: insights from case studies</i> ”	Dr Georgios Chatzichristos Adj Lecturer, Project Coordinator ASSETS, AUTH
17:20-17:40	Discussion	

17:40- 18:00	Discussion and final wrap-up of the conference
18:00	END OF CONFERENCE

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