

COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

# Institute for Social Innovation (ISS)

# Regenerate!



## Regenerative Business Practices and Governance: A Longitudinal Study of Regenerative Agriculture in Spain

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:



Tobias Hahn



Maja Tampe

### PERIOD:

September 2021 – August 2024

### FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MCIU

### REFERENCE:

PID2020-120428GB-I00

### SUMMARY:

Business activities play an important role in the ongoing degradation of the health of Earth's ecosystems. The rise of concepts such as business sustainability over the last decades has not reversed this trend. One reason for this failure is that business sustainability still takes

the business organization and its performance as the reference point. Calls to adopt a systems perspective to rethink business practices as if sustainability really mattered have rarely been heeded so far.

In this project, we will study the nascent development and adoption of regenerative business practices, i.e., business practices that enhance, and thrive through the health of social-ecological systems in a co-evolutionary process. In stark contrast to established approaches to business sustainability, regenerative business takes the health of social-ecological systems as the reference point.

Overall, the objective of this project is to generate better knowledge about the process and contingencies of the adoption of regenerative business practices. To achieve this objective and based on the concepts of social-ecological systems and polycentric governance, we will conduct two qualitative studies in the context of regenerative agriculture in Spain. In a longitudinal process study, we analyze the collaborative efforts of multiple actors to develop and establish regenerative agricultural business practices. This will offer insights into the collaborative dynamics within and across multiple organizations and actors that lead to the development of adaptive and regenerative practices. In a qualitative policy study, we address the regulatory boundary conditions of the adoption of regenerative business practices.

Following a polycentric governance approach, we will analyze regulatory efforts to foster regenerative agriculture at different levels (regional, national, supranational) and through different governance approaches (private as well as public governance). The project will generate insightful knowledge about nascent regenerative business practices that will be valuable for academics, practitioners, and policy makers. Most importantly, the project will generate a better understanding of the collaborative practices and governance frameworks that are likely to lead into systems-oriented, and therefore more sustainable, regenerative business practices in agriculture and beyond.

# Respond, Rebuild, Reinvent



**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Ignasi  
Martí

**PERIOD:**

April 2021 – December 2021

**FUNDING BODY:**

OECD Tender for Peer Learning Partnerships to promote SSE Ecosystems

**REFERENCE:**

Grant agreement SRM #: 300004486

**COORDINATING INSTITUTION:**

Up Social S.L.

**SUMMARY:**

The Respond Rebuild Reinvent (RRR) project is one of the six Peer Learning Partnerships (PLPs) of the OECD Global Action “Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems”, funded by the European Union’s Foreign Partnership Instrument. The RRR project was designed to enhance knowledge and learning exchanges between city administrations and other stakeholders from the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) ecosystem with the aim of: improving cross-sectoral collaboration; explore how local administrations can tap into the potential of SSE ecosystems to explore COVID-19 related challenges; and understand how to co-create more integrated support ecosystems for SSE development.

In line with wider findings, the RRR PLP showed that the COVID-19 pandemic has in many cases strengthened ties between cities and their SSE ecosystems. The partnership helped to confirm growing demand for tools and methods for enhanced ecosystem workings, particularly ways to foster long-term, horizontal relationships and to harness the power of innovation to address long-standing social challenges.

# DIGICOM



## Activism, participation, and governance of the digital commons

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Daniel Arenas

### PERIOD:

January 2019 – December 2021

### FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MCIU

### REFERENCE:

PGC2018-099633-B-100

### RESEARCH TEAM:

David Murillo, Sira Abenoza, Joan Rodon

### SUMMARY:

The first general objective of this project is to study the governance mechanisms of the digital commons in their creation and growth. It is expected that these mechanisms are neither purely hierarchical nor purely contractual, but that they also include horizontal and participatory elements. For this, the study will compare the principles proposed by the literature on the governance of natural commons from Ostrom with those used by the governance initiatives of digital commons.

The second general objective of this project is to study how (through what steps or phases) a social movement (in this case, in defense of an open and neutral telecommunications network) ends up creating a new market, imposing social and ethical principles, and combining activism with new business initiatives. When creating a new market inspired by a social movement, it is expected that the business dimension and the community or associative dimension will come under tension. Managing this tension is then a challenge for this type of initiative. To see how this can be managed, the case of an open and neutral network will be compared with other cases studied by the literature on social movements and market creation.

The third general objective is to study the mechanisms of participation, formal and informal, both in the creation phase of a new market based on social activism and in the governance phase of the digital commons. Within this objective it will be necessary to study the importance given to this participation by the different actors involved, what they understand by participation and the feeling of belonging to a community that emerges from this participation.

# SCALINGS



## Scaling up Co-creation: Avenues and Limits for Integrating Society in Science and Innovation

**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Kyriaki  
Papageorgiou

**PERIOD:**

May 2018 – April 2020

**FUNDING BODY:**

European Union - H2020 Programme

**REFERENCE:**

GA 788359

**COORDINATING INSTITUTION:**

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET MUENCHEN

**SUMMARY:**

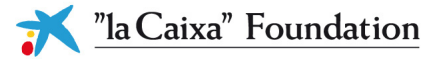
Co-creation practice – and co-creation research – are at a crossroads: More than ever, initiatives to boost innovation through collaboration among diverse actors are flourishing across Europe. Yet, this mainstreaming poses new challenges to better understand “co-creation processes and outcomes under various cultural, societal and regulatory backgrounds to allow better-targeted policy support” (SwafS-13-17). To date, no systematic studies exist that detail how co-creation instruments operate under different socio-cultural conditions, i.e. if “best practices” will be effective elsewhere or if the resulting products and services are compatible with new markets.

SCALINGS addresses the challenge of mainstreaming co-creation across a diverse Europe head-on: In the first ever rigorous comparative study, we will investigate the implementation, uptake, and outcomes of three co-creation instruments (public procurement of innovation, co-creation facilities, and living labs) in two technical domains (robotics and urban energy) across 10 countries. Using comparative case studies and coordinated cross-country experiments, we explore if and how these instruments can be generalized, transferred, or scaled up to new socio-cultural, economic, or institutional conditions to unleash their innovative power.

Based on this unique data set, we will develop two new transformative frameworks – “situated co-creation” and “socially robust scaling” – to guide the wider dissemination of co-creation. We will synthesize our findings into an “EU Policy Roadmap” to support ongoing EU innovation policy efforts. Empirically, SCALINGS is closely integrated with over two dozen European co-creation initiatives that deal with cross-cultural transferability on a daily basis. Together with these partners, we will co-create enhanced practices that feed directly back into their work and strategy. Finally, we will launch a training program (boot camp) on co-creation in diverse settings for other EU consortia.

**More info:** <https://scalings.eu/>;  
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/788359>

## Platform cooperativism: governance models and democratic potential



**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Daniel  
Arenas

**PERIOD:**

April 2018 – April 2020

**FUNDING BODY:**

RECERCAIXA

**REFERENCE:**

LCF/PR/RC17/50110006

**RESEARCH TEAM:**

David Murillo, Joan Rodón, Liliana Arroyo, Mireia Yter

**SUMMARY:**

In the new economy, the Internet is not merely an infrastructure and a communication channel but also a way of creating value. In this scenario, platforms have emerged as new social and economic agents whose business model is the ability to connect different groups of users, allowing for Peer-to-Peer (P2P) economic relationships, often replacing Business-to-Consumer (B2C) interactions. While platforms become the necessary intermediaries in this new economy, users are the necessary collaborators since platforms rely on the so-called “network effect” and the ability to reach “critical mass”.

Given this scenario of social and economic innovation, the general objective of this project is to analyse concrete alternatives proposed by conscientious users and empowered citizens who have started to react to the winner-takes-all dynamic of the platform economy and have engaged in platform initiatives with a collective governance model, following the spirit of “do-it-yourself democracy”. This phenomenon is often referred to as “platform cooperativism”.

Within this framework this project investigates cases such as Guifi.net, SomMobilitat, Holon, Lazzum, Midata.coop, Healthbank.coop and Som Energia. All cases having either an impact already or are expected to do so in the future. The project aims to analyse the different governance models of platform cooperatives, as well as how they put into practice the ideal of deliberative democracy. In addition, the project puts a special emphasis on a specific type of platform cooperatives called data cooperatives, in which citizens pool their personal health data to create a data Commons.

The methodology to accomplish the objectives is qualitative. Specifically, two techniques will be applied; in-depth interviews and non-participant observation. The main expectation of this project is to provide both the scientific community and the general audience knowledge about more democratic alternatives to the platform economy and the benefits they might have for users.

# SCALA



## Scale-up of Prevention and Management of Alcohol Use Disorder in Latin America

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**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**



Eva Jané

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**PERIOD:**

December 2017 – November 2021

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**FUNDING BODY:**

European Union - H2020 Programme

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**REFERENCE:**

GA 778048

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**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Dasa Kokole

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**SUMMARY:**

Following the strategic approach of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) to support optimal approaches to implement existing knowledge, SCALA implements and evaluates an evidence-based approach to scale up prevention and management of Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) and comorbid depression, using primary health care (PHC) as the integrated delivery platform, embedded within municipal settings. SCALA uses different capacity-building and training approaches for a range of health care professionals and other stakeholders and municipal-based adoption and support mechanisms for joined-up action to improve health literacy, and to prevent and manage AUD and comorbid depression, reducing the burden of their attributable non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Implemented in three countries of Latin America (Colombia, Mexico and Peru), SCALA facilitates country-specific priority setting for interventions that capture health and economic costs and benefits with a long-term perspective, to ensure best-buy programme and policy decisions that lay out the pathways for scaling up in other countries of the region, and, further, globally. SCALA supports implementation of the WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020, using primary health care as the platform for the prevention and management of AUD and comorbid depressive disorders, closing treatment gaps, and reducing stigma and social exclusion.

More info: <https://www.scalaproject.eu/>;  
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/778048>

## Grup de Recerca en Responsabilitat Social de l'Empresa (GRRSE)



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**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Daniel  
Arenas

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**PERIOD:**

January 2017 – September 2021

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**FUNDING BODY:**

AGAUR

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**REFERENCE:**

2017 SGR 336

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**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Josep Maria Lozano Soler, Josep Francesc Maria Serrano, David Murillo Bonvehí, Marc Vilanova Pichot, Maja Tampe, Sira Abenoza Gonzalez, Eva Jané Llopis, Ignasi Martí Lanuza, Tobias Hahn

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**SUMMARY:**

The aim of these grants from the Catalan Government is to promote the activities of research groups that allow to strengthen the scientific, economic and social impact of research, as well as promote its international projection.



# SUSTBUS



## Sustainable Business Models

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**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



David  
Murillo

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**PERIOD:**

October 2016 – April 2019

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**FUNDING BODY:**

EU LLL-Erasmus +

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**REFERENCE:**

2016-1-NO01-KA203-022063

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**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Susanna Salvador

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## SUMMARY:

The Erasmus+ Project Sustainable Business Models (SUSTBUS) has developed an educational program on Sustainable Business Models - an open access, online teaching program developed jointly by CBS, Esade and NHH, and co-funded by Erasmus+. In the link below you can explore the six modules with 32 videos on how to design and implement sustainable business models. The program has been developed by Copenhagen Business School in collaboration with the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) and Esade (the Ramon Llull University).

**More info:** <https://www.esade.edu/faculty-research/en/institute-social-innovation/training/sustainable-business-models-sustbus>

## Case study on UNHCR's partnership with the IKEA Foundation

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**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Sira  
Abenoza

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**PERIOD:**

October 2016 – December 2017

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**FUNDING BODY:**

TENDER-IKEA partnership Program RFP756

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**REFERENCE:**

HQSMS-0000034960

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**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Jordi Vives, Sonia Navarro

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**SUMMARY:**

The objective of this research is to conduct an in depth analysis of the partnership between UNHCR and IKEA Foundation.

## La democratización de la empresa: Análisis de los nuevos roles políticos de la empresa en un contexto de transformación del Estado de bienestar, derechos humanos, la educación ejecutiva y el diálogo con los stakeholders



Campus de  
Excelencia  
Internacional

**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Daniel  
Arenas

**PERIOD:**

March 2015 – March 2016

**FUNDING BODY:**

ACM

**REFERENCE:**

ACM2015\_17

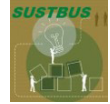
**SUMMARY:**

The research of the CDI focuses on the analysis of the new political roles adopted by companies in the framework of globalization and global governance and in the context of the profound process of political transformation of the Welfare State in response to the new demands that society makes global companies and critics of social movements calling for a process of democratization of the company. Current debate is based on concepts such as global governance and the role of the company in the global context of social responsibility and dialogue with stakeholders in which the members of this research team have generated different academic articles in recent years. Taking into

account the changing context of business in the global society, the research objectives of the CDI are:

1. Study the impact of the new political roles adopted by the company around Social Responsibility and explain its impact on the theory of the company. To study the literature that has emerged in the tone of "CSR policy" in recent years to classify it and determine its impact from the point of view of political philosophy, business theory and corporate social responsibility.
2. Generate a new theory of deliberative enterprise based on new forms of dialogue, collaboration between organizations and interest groups.
3. Study the implications of these political transformations of the Social Responsibility of the company in university education and in the design of new management programs and business administration, generating new educational forms in values.

# WISE



## Women Innovators for Social Business in Europe

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**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR:**



Alfred Vernis  
Domènech

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**PERIOD:**

October 2013 – September 2015

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**FUNDING BODY:**

LLL-Erasmus +

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**REFERENCE:**

2013-3902/001-001

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**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Clara Navarro, Elena Rodriguez Blanco, Monica Grau,  
Sonia Navarro

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**SUMMARY:**

The overarching aim of the WiSE programme was to facilitate access to knowledge and tools in order for women to become social innovators and solve challenges in their community. The WiSE objective was to create and disseminate an integrated training programmes based on cutting-edge methodologies and an experiential pedagogical plan and an interactive e-community. The initiative was grounded in the need to generate innovative ideas and an interactive support community that allows women with work experience to start-up socially-focused projects and effective social businesses.

More info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAucAO6EGOk>

