

Editorial Foreword

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new exciting issue of our scientific journal ***Review of Applied Socio-Economic Research – Volume 18 / issue 2 / 2019***. This is a **Special Issue** on the topic of "**Social and Solidarity Economy and Local Sustainable Development**." As it is already known, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SEE) has proven to have a high potential for job creation and maintaining, even during times of crisis. SSE organizations and enterprises play a crucial role in inclusive and sustainable local economic development strategies, making a significant contribution to the use of local resources. Embedded in the communities they serve, SEE organizations are centered on people, rather than the maximization of profit, employ democratic and participatory models of governance, and they are not relocated as they meet the needs of the communities they serve.

This Special Issue provides a venue for high-quality research works of academics and researchers members of **CIRIEC (International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy)** network, in the topic above. Many of the articles have been discussed in the workshops of the **7th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy "Social and Solidarity Economy - moving towards a new economic system"**, in June 2019, Romania. Special thanks to Professor Marie J. Bouchard (University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada), President of CIRIEC International Scientific Commission Social and Cooperative Economy, for her active involvement in organizing the 7th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy in Romania together with the Organizing Committee (Christine Dussart, Barbara Sak, Ancuța Vameșu, Mihaela Lambru, Irina Sînziana Opincaru, Alexandra Zbucnea, Marian Zulean), besides her outstanding scientific contribution to the conference!

This Special Issue highlights the importance of SSE for achieving Local Sustainable Development, reflecting, at an international level, various dimensions in this research area, such as: commons as a new transformative phase for the economy, the role of SEE in reducing urban poverty, different patterns of SEE, cooperative ecosystems for local development, the consolidation of the circular economy principles in the SEE, the role of social innovation for local development, new conceptual models of social enterprises, lessons learned from an Inclusive Economy Participation Site experiment etc. The scientific discourse covers SEE realities and challenges from Western and Central Europe (France, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Poland), from Eastern Europe (Romania), from Turkey, Japan, and Morocco, but including also interesting case studies from India, Thailand, and Indonesia. All the papers show that SSE has a clear value-added in terms of social and economic benefits for local development. More than that, SSE can play a crucial role in the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

We want to thank our authors who found in our review a suitable forum of academic and research debate in SEE, and to all those who contributed to this Special Issue!

Enjoy your reading!

Cristina Barna
Managing Editor