

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Conference Theme

PARALLEL TRANSFORMATIONS:

Responding to the AI Revolution and Global Crises through innovation and Entrepreneurship

Special Track Proposal

Track Title Please provide a concise and engaging title for the proposed track	Startups Shaping Tomorrow: Tech, Ecosystem & Ethics in the Global Revolution
Track Description Please provide a detailed description of the proposed track (approximately 800–1,000 words), outlining: • Motivation and relevance of the track; • Key research challenges and emerging issues addressed • Track's contribution to the conference theme • Examples of topics and research questions that would fit within the track	<i>Motivation and relevance of the track</i> In an era defined by profound geopolitical shifts, environmental emergencies, and rapid technological advancements, startups have emerged as the primary engines of economic resilience and systemic change (Zangara et al. 2025). These new ventures are navigating what the conference defines as “Parallel Transformations”, operating at the critical intersection of global crises and technological revolutions. While advanced technologies, including AI, provide unprecedented tools for venture creation (Cimino et al., 2025), the core focus of this track is on the actors driving this change: the startups and the entrepreneurial ecosystems that sustain them (Cochis and Ungureanu, 2026). Startups act as agile problem-solvers in times of disruption, yet they are also highly vulnerable to external shocks (De Villiers Scheepers et al., 2025; Buratti and Menter, 2025). This track aims to explore how tech-driven startups survive, scale, and shape the future, highlighting the necessity of robust support networks, adaptive business models, and responsible innovation practices in a highly uncertain global landscape. <i>Key research challenges and emerging issues addressed</i> Research on startups and entrepreneurial ecosystems must evolve to address the complexities of the current global scenario. This track tackles several emerging challenges: Startup Resilience and Crisis Management, understanding how resource-constrained new ventures pivot, survive, and even thrive during overlapping global crises (economic, health, or supply chain disruptions); Ecosystem Dynamics and Support Structures, investigating how local and global entrepreneurial ecosystems (incubators, venture capital, universities, and policymakers) must adapt to support startups navigating technological revolutions and global uncertainty; Responsible Scaling and Ethics, exploring how startups integrate ethical considerations and social responsibility into their rapid growth models, especially when adopting disruptive technologies like AI, ensuring that innovation does not create new societal vulnerabilities; Business Model Reinvention, analyzing how startups are moving beyond traditional paradigms to create purpose-driven business models that balance financial viability with social and environmental impact. <i>Track's contribution to the conference theme</i> This track aligns with the MINE conference theme, “Parallel Transformations: Responding to the AI Revolution and Global Crises through innovation and Entrepreneurship”. By placing startups at the center of the debate, the track operationalizes the concept of “innovation and Entrepreneurship” as the primary response to global challenges. It bridges the gap between the macro-level phenomena of technological disruption (such as the AI



	revolution) and macro-economic crises, focusing on the micro and meso-level dynamics of venture creation and ecosystem support. <i>Examples of topics and research questions that would fit within the track</i> Resilience strategies: how do tech startups adapt their resource acquisition and business models in response to sudden global crises? Ecosystem evolution: how do entrepreneurial ecosystems foster the creation of resilient and purpose-driven startups in a rapidly changing technological landscape? Technology adoption: how do startups leverage emerging technologies to disrupt traditional industries while managing the associated ethical and operational risks? Venture Capital and funding: how are investment criteria and funding dynamics shifting in response to global uncertainty and the demand for sustainable, responsible innovation? Policy and governance: what is the role of policymakers in designing regulatory frameworks that protect society without stifling the agility and growth of tech startups?
Keywords <i>Please provide 4–6 keywords that best characterize the proposed track. Separate keywords using a semicolon (;)</i>	Tech startups; Entrepreneurial ecosystems; Crisis resilience; Venture creation; Responsible innovation; Business model adaptation.
References <i>Please include the key references supporting the relevance and positioning of the proposed track</i>	Cimino, A., Troise, C., Corvello, V., & Bresciani, S. (2025). Artificial intelligence and dynamic capabilities: how startups can thrive in entrepreneurial ecosystems amid disruptive change. <i>International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal</i>, 21(1), 1-26. Zangara, G., Corvello, V., & Filice, L. (2025). Integrating social sustainability in startups: an analysis of internal and external drivers, mediators, and performance outcomes. <i>Review of Managerial Science</i>, 20(6), 1845-1870. Buratti, M., & Menter, M. (2025). The resilience of entrepreneurial ecosystems: an analysis of ecosystem network structures. <i>Review of Managerial Science</i>, 20(7), 2207-2239. De Villiers Scheepers, M. J., Gronum, S., Cranney, S., & Tracey, N. (2025). Business model redesign through effectual action in times of crisis. <i>Journal of Small Business Management</i>, 63(3), 1106-1142. Cochis C, Ungureanu P (2026), "Organizing (in) innovation ecosystems: a definition, new theoretical lenses and a research agenda". <i>European Journal of Innovation Management</i>, Vol. 29 No. 11 pp. 525–547, doi: https://doi.org/10.1108/EJIM-03-2026-0270
Track Chairs <i>Please identify between 2 and 5 Track Chairs. For each Track Chair, provide:</i> • Full Name • Affiliation • Country • Email address • Research interests (optional)	Prof. Luigino Filice, PhD Dr. Gabriele Zangara, PhD
Short biography of each organizer <i>Please provide a short biography for each Track Chair (maximum 200 words per biography)</i>	Prof. Luigino Filice, PhD, is a Full Professor of Manufacturing Technologies and Systems at the University of Calabria, where he leads the Manufacturing research group and teaches <i>Open Innovation in Industry</i>. With over 25 years of experience in industrial engineering, his work focuses on process optimization and sustainable manufacturing. He holds a degree in Management Engineering from the University of Calabria and a PhD from the University of Palermo. At the University of Calabria, he has served in key governance roles, including Deputy Rector (2013–2019), Department Vice-Director, and Head of the Quality Assurance Unit.

	A recipient of the 2007 ESAFORM Award, Prof. Filice has co-authored over 200 scientific publications. His recent research highlights Industry 5.0, social sustainability, and harmonic innovation. He has served as Vice President of AITEM and Director of the Calabria Digital Innovation Hub. Additionally, he acts as an expert evaluator for national and international research programs (including ANVUR and FNRS), bridging academic research, industry, and societal impact through open innovation. Dr. Gabriele Zangara is a Management Engineer and Post-doc researcher in Industrial Engineering at the Department of Mechanical, Energy, and Management Engineering (DIMEG) of the University of Calabria (UNICAL). His academic research focuses primarily on social sustainability, supply chain innovation, Industry 5.0, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and startup ecosystems. He actively explores how technological advancements and human-centric approaches can harmonize to foster sustainable economic and social growth in both manufacturing and service sectors. In addition to his academic achievements, Zangara is deeply involved in innovation and entrepreneurship. He is a co-founder of Blue Innovation, a venture that achieved first place at the Start Cup Calabria 2023 competition. Through his research, published in various international journals, and his entrepreneurial initiatives, he works to bridge academic research, open innovation, and real-world industrial applications.
Corresponding Track Chair <i>Please indicate the Track Chair who will serve as the primary contact person for all communications with the Conference Organizing Committee</i>	Prof. Luigino Filice (luigino.filice@unical.it)

