

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 <i>Please provide a concise and engaging title for the proposed track</i>	Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Urban Renewal: Rebuilding Local Capacity amid Crisis and Technological Change.
Track Description <i>Please provide a detailed description of the proposed track (approximately 800–1,000 words), outlining:</i> • 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	Motivation and relevance of the track Cities are simultaneously facing persistent crises and an acceleration of technological change. Processes of deindustrialization, loss of employment and human capital, demographic changes and environmental pressures can weaken the economic and social foundations of urban territories over time (Gherhes et al., 2018; Franklin & Slawinski, 2026). At the same time, the diffusion of digital technologies and, more recently, artificial intelligence is changing productive activities, skills, infrastructures, and modes of value creation. These changes can open up new opportunities, but they do not produce the same effects everywhere: different cities start from very different endowments of resources, skills, and adaptive capacities. Crises can also leave legacies that continue to shape development trajectories long after the initial shock has passed. In peripheral and post-industrial contexts, the loss of economic activities can reduce opportunities and skills, weaken local networks, and affect aspirations and place identity. Gherhes et al. (2018) describe these dynamics through the concept of institutional hysteresis, showing how the effects of deindustrialization can continue to constrain entrepreneurial activity and local resilience. In devitalized contexts, decline can also erode human and social capital and reduce the availability of resources on which new development trajectories can be built (Franklin & Slawinski, 2026). In this context, entrepreneurship and innovation can play an important role in the revitalization of struggling urban areas. The creation of new firms can generate employment, introduce knowledge and skills, support the diversification of the productive base, and make local economies more adaptable. Kané et al. (2026), for example, show how greater entrepreneurial activity can support recovery after economic shocks and strengthen the resilience of local economies over time. Entrepreneurship can therefore contribute not only to the creation of new activities, but also to the development of alternative development paths compared with those that supported the previous economic structure. However, this contribution is not automatic. The growth of a new firm, the attraction of an investment, or the introduction of a new technology may produce positive outcomes for the organizations directly involved without generating equally broad benefits for the territory. An initiative may grow without strengthening the capacity of other local actors to innovate. It therefore becomes



important to understand when the value created by entrepreneurial initiatives feeds into skills, relationships, and opportunities that are accessible to the community and when, instead, it remains circumscribed or produces new dependencies. In this direction, the literature on *civic wealth creation* shows how community revitalization can occur through the mobilization of local resources, community engagement, and collaboration among actors, generating not only economic value but also collective capabilities and resources (Franklin & Slawinski, 2026).

A second, even deeper issue is added to this first one. Entrepreneurship and innovation are attributed the capacity to contribute to the regeneration of places in crisis, but their very possibility of emerging depends on resources, relationships, and institutions that the same crisis may have weakened. How, then, can actors contribute to rebuilding the conditions on which their own capacity to act depends? The process perspective on entrepreneurial ecosystems provides an important basis for addressing this question, considering ecosystems as dynamic configurations that evolve through the production, circulation, and reconfiguration of resources (Spigel & Harrison, 2018). The track builds on this perspective to investigate how the rebuilding of local capabilities occurs when persistent crises and technological change intersect.

Key research challenges and emerging issues

A first challenge is therefore to explain through which mechanisms the value generated by entrepreneurial initiatives can translate into a broader and more durable capacity for urban transformation. Governance plays a central role in this process. The ways in which firms, public administrations, universities, intermediary organizations, and communities interact can influence who gains access to resources, how knowledge circulates, which priorities are pursued, and how the benefits are distributed. Some relationships can foster learning, collaboration, and local reinvestment; others can concentrate opportunities, protect established interests, or make experimentation more difficult (Hernández-Chea et al., 2021; Knox & Arshed, 2022).

The urban dimension makes these processes particularly complex. Cities are not simply geographical containers of entrepreneurial activity, but systems in which economic activities, public services, infrastructures, institutions, and communities are highly interdependent. Urban transformations related to digital technologies require mutual adaptation among technologies, local practices, institutions, and actors and depend on the capacity to coordinate resources and skills distributed across different organizations (Mora et al., 2023). This leads us to ask not only which initiatives are successful, but also how they modify conditions and resources shared by a plurality of actors.

Artificial intelligence makes these issues even more relevant. It can broaden access to knowledge and capabilities that were previously difficult to obtain and create new entrepreneurial opportunities, but it can also increase dependence on external infrastructures, platforms, data, and providers. Rather than assuming one outcome or the other in advance, the track therefore invites research on when new technologies strengthen local capabilities and when, instead, they contribute to shifting resources, knowledge, or decision-making capacities outside the territory.

Contribution of the track to the conference theme

The MINE 2027 theme, *“Parallel Transformations: Responding to the AI Revolution and Global Crises through Innovation and Entrepreneurship”*, finds urban contexts



	to be a particularly suitable field of observation. It is in cities that the effects of economic, social, and environmental crises intersect with technological transformation and encounter very different configurations of resources, skills, relationships, and institutions. The track directly connects these two transformations by asking how entrepreneurship and innovation can contribute to rebuilding local capabilities weakened by crises and, at the same time, how technological change can support this rebuilding or generate new forms of dependence. Attention thus shifts from the success of individual initiatives alone to their capacity to contribute to broader and more durable trajectories of urban transformation. Examples of topics and research questions The track welcomes contributions on entrepreneurship and urban regeneration; the evolution of entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems; governance and interorganizational relationships; community and place-based entrepreneurship; the mobilization and recombination of local resources; civic wealth creation; artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in urban contexts. Possible research questions include: • How can entrepreneurial and innovation actors contribute to rebuilding the resources, relationships, and institutions on which their own capacity to act depends? • How and under what conditions do entrepreneurship and innovation contribute to rebuilding local capabilities in contexts marked by persistent crises? • When does the value created by new firms, investments, and innovations diffuse beyond the organizations that produce it and strengthen the transformative capacity of the territory? • How do governance configurations influence the circulation of knowledge and resources and the distribution of the benefits of innovation? • When do artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies strengthen local capabilities and when, instead, do they generate new dependencies? •
Keywords Please provide 4–6 keywords that best characterize the proposed track. Separate keywords using a semicolon (;)	Innovation; Entrepreneurship; Urban Transformation; Entrepreneurial Ecosystems; Technological Transformation; Place-Based Entrepreneurship
References Please include the key references supporting the relevance and positioning of the proposed track	References • Franklin, R., & Slawinski, N. (2026). <i>Activating civic wealth creation in devitalized communities: The role of sense of place</i>. Journal of Business Venturing, 41, 106603. • Gherhes, C., Vorley, T., & Williams, N. (2018). <i>Entrepreneurship and local economic resilience: The impact of institutional hysteresis in peripheral places</i>. Small Business Economics, 51, 577–590. • Hernández-Chea, R., Mahdad, M., Minh, T. T., & Hjortsø, C. N. (2021). <i>Moving beyond intermediation: How intermediary organizations shape collaboration dynamics in entrepreneurial ecosystems</i>. Technovation, 108, 102332. • Kané, A., Levratto, N., & Dejardin, M. (2026). <i>When and where does entrepreneurship contribute to local resilience?</i> Regional Studies, 60(1), 2718334.



	• Knox, S., & Arshed, N. (2022). <i>Network governance and coordination of a regional entrepreneurial ecosystem</i>. Regional Studies, 56(7), 1161–1175. • Mora, L., Gerli, P., Ardito, L., & Messeni Petruzzelli, A. (2023). <i>Smart city governance from an innovation management perspective: Theoretical framing, review of current practices, and future research agenda</i>. Technovation, 123, 102717. • Spigel, B., & Harrison, R. (2018). <i>Toward a process theory of entrepreneurial ecosystems</i>. Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, 12(1), 151–168.
Track Chairs Please identify between 2 and 5 Track Chairs. For each Track Chair, provide: • Full Name • Affiliation • Country • Email address • Research interests (optional)	Full name: Luca Famà Affiliation: University of Messina Country: Italy Email address: luca.fama@studenti.unime.it Full name: Luca Mora Affiliation: Napier University's Business School Country: UK Email address: luca.mora@taltech.ee Full name: Serena Filippelli Affiliation: University of Parma Country: Italy Email address: Serena.filippelli@unipr.it Full name: Virginia Dolci Affiliation: University of the Republic of San Marino Country: San Marino Email address: v.dolci1@unirmsm.sm
Short biography of each organizer Please provide a short biography for each Track Chair (maximum 200 words per biography)	Luca Famà Luca Famà is a PhD Candidate in Management Engineering at the University of Messina. His research focuses on entrepreneurship, urban contexts, and social innovation, with particular interest in how entrepreneurial actors contribute to local transformation. His work mainly adopts qualitative research approaches to investigate these dynamics. Luca Mora Luca Mora is Professor of Urban Innovation at Edinburgh Napier University's Business School, UK, and at Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech). His research focuses on urban innovation, smart city governance, digital transformation, and innovation ecosystems, with particular attention to how emerging technologies and collaborative governance shape urban development. He is Co-Editor-in-Chief of Technological Forecasting and Social Change. Serena Filippelli Serena Filippelli is a Research Fellow at the University of Parma and holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering. She teaches <i>Product and Service Innovation</i> at the same university. Her research focuses on innovation management, entrepreneurship, open innovation, digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. She has published in international journals including Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Review of Managerial Science and Journal of

	Innovation & Knowledge. She has also organized and chaired several special tracks at international conferences on innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and emerging technologies. Virginia Dolci Virginia Dolci is a PhD candidate in Management Engineering at the University of the Republic of San Marino. Her research focuses on decision-making and entrepreneurship, particularly on how entrepreneurs and SMEs assess opportunities, make strategic choices, and adopt digital technologies. Her interests also include digital readiness, open innovation, innovation ecosystems, and sustainability. She has presented her research at several international conferences and has organized and chaired tracks on entrepreneurship, open innovation, artificial intelligence adoption, and social sustainability.
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>	Luca Famà

