
Entreprendre & Innover

Special issue #52

Local and place entrepreneurship: A new frontier?

Creating dynamics for economic, social and environmental value creation at the local level

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The local level is back, and resoundingly so. After the proliferation of findings about “local-level divides” (Davezies, 2012, Guilluy, 2010), the diversity of local trajectories, marked by the difficulties of low-density areas (CGET, 2015), or even areas facing abandonment (INSEE, 2019), having to deal with the decline in jobs and the population, the time has come for reconquest and the pressing importance of mobilising around the local level. More than just focusing on the level of entrepreneurship in a given area, initiatives are being implemented to encourage an over-arching entrepreneurial dynamic, and even a local-level or place entrepreneurship.

According to Baudet (2017), “local entrepreneurship is emerging and anchoring itself in a local ecosystem – a fertile ground where multi-stakeholder and multi-partner cooperation dynamics will be able to find the support and extract the resources they need to build and develop. This special report will be devoted to identifying the distinctive features and diversity of this local-level entrepreneurship, and understanding how an entrepreneurial dynamic develops in and for a given area (Henrion et alii, 2019).

Players are converging to make the local level central to their actions, and more and more initiatives are coming about.

The public players are using the tools available to them and instituting policies to support the creation of local dynamics: from the creation of the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion,

ANCT (2020), to the institution of multiple programmes aimed at recognising and encouraging action in medium-sized cities, rural areas and local-level manufacturing dynamics, the central powers are making rural, peripheral or low-density areas the focus of attention again.

The local authorities are no less active. From the Regions to the local elected officials, the question of the “Mayor entrepreneur” (Nobile et alii, 2012) and, more broadly, about the strategic action of the local authorities is also in the fore (Audretsch, 2015).

Above all, though, citizen organisations and companies are taking action in turn. Players are emerging on the ground, entrepreneurs anchored in their regions and “local-level businesses” aiming to promote the creation of local entrepreneurship dynamics, through collaborative innovation events (for example, local start-ups), as well as the development of local-level cooperation strategies. Lastly, citizens are not standing idle, and the emergence of *community based entrepreneurship* is worth noting (Gurău and Dana, 2019).

The aim of this edition is to take stock of local-level entrepreneurship, by helping identify the endeavours and achievements in this area, in order to understand the levers for action, as well as the difficulties and pitfalls.

The proposals will deal, in particular, with the following topics:

- Local-level entrepreneurship: actions, initiatives and experiments
- What are the scales of action? The State, local authorities, PTCE and social economy players, citizen actions. Is the mayor-entrepreneur supported or impeded?
- The geographic places of entrepreneurship: town entrepreneurship and country entrepreneurship?
- Priority urban districts,
- Local-level enterprises
- The construction of local-level entrepreneurship: which actors? which modalities?
- Which forms of action: collaborative events, territorial start-ups, hackathons, third places,
- Which ecosystems for local-level entrepreneurship

The main dates to remember are :

- 1/10/2021: Submission of papers
- 1/12/2021: Feedback to authors
- 1/06/2022: Deadline for submission of revised papers
- 1/09/2022: Publication of the issue

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Editorial line

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As this review is primarily aimed at practitioners, we are careful to ensure that the contributions are concerned with practical applications, business implications and/or policy recommendations. With this in mind, contributions should :

- **have a section making explicit reference to these concerns:** the reader should always be able to say at the end of the reading: so what? how does this article help me to act or to improve my future actions?
- **adopt more concrete and operational language** than is customary in academic journals: theory should not be absent but popularised, i.e. translated into simple terms. Abstract concepts should be made explicit and/or illustrated with practical examples.
- **not accumulate scientific references:** The aim is to select a few reference authors useful for understanding the subject, not to show the completeness of the academic literature on the subject. Scientific references should be cited exclusively through footnotes.

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