

Special Issue "Entrepreneurship, Open Innovation and Digital Transformation for Sustainability"

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Special Issue Information

Dear Colleagues,

Sustainability generally addresses three fundamental pillars: environmental and ecological, economic, and social. It is a concept related to the conservation or maintenance of a scenario in the long term to deal well with possible threats. The notion of sustainability emerged supported by the clear understanding that natural resources are limited and finite. In this understanding, sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Since the first definition of open innovation (OI), the relationship between this concept and entrepreneurship has been unavoidable. However, how the two concepts could influence each other was unclear.

The first definition of OI was conceived by Chesbrough (2003), who considers it a paradigm for technological advancement, suggesting how firms should use internal and external contributions and paths to market. The concept has influenced works dealing closely with innovation, but the literature on entrepreneurship has also increasingly developed, considering now the importance of OI. Many studies focused on how OI holds important implications for entrepreneurial activities, yet, there may also be an interesting reverse causality that has received only scant attention: "how could entrepreneurship and its characteristics help to promote and manage OI?". Also, it is crucial to consider the recent evolution of the digital economy to explore the relationships between entrepreneurship and OI.

The accelerated growth of digital technologies and their adoption by companies have drastically changed entrepreneurial activities and had significant impacts on the development of the economy and society. Furthermore, the adoption of digital technologies can influence both the economic sustainability and the social value of companies and can improve the socio-economic conditions of a region or country. The adoption of modern digital technologies (social media, the Internet of Things, blockchain, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence) can trigger the digital transformation of companies. Digital transformation aims to allow companies to improve their performance as much as possible, improving economic and social value. Digital transformation is a way of shifting business activities from traditional media to a digital environment.

This Special Issue aims to promote theoretical and empirical investigations on Entrepreneurship, Open Innovation and Digital Transformation for Sustainability, to understand the connections between entrepreneurship, sustainability, open innovation and the digital transformation of companies. This edition aims to contribute to a greater understanding of how the relationships between the abovementioned themes can respond to sustainability and climate change mitigation's challenges to companies. Also, we will provide approaches that allow us to systematize the existing literature while considering empirical tests of current theories and contributing to a future research agenda.

In this Special Issue, original research articles and reviews are welcome. Research areas may include (but not limited to) the following:

- Effects of technology transfer, climate change mitigation and patents on business performance.
- Sustainable Entrepreneurship Models Open innovation and business performance.
- Sustainability promoted by entrepreneurship.
- Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Innovations.
- Impact of public policies promoting sustainable entrepreneurship.
- Sustainability, business organization, technology, and digital transformation.

We look forward to receiving your contributions.

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Guest Editors