



Sustainability Management and Finance for SMEs: Challenges and Opportunities for Businesses and Local Development

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 October 2021)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

this Special Issue of Sustainability falls within the “Economic, Business and Management Aspects of Sustainability” section. Sustainability management and finance, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and local development are the three key points that will be discussed in this special issue.

Numerous studies on SMEs demonstrate the strengths of these enterprises: the considerable opportunities their potential for flexibility, creativity, autonomy, prompt market response, and product and services personalization permit. However, some of the greatest weaknesses (strategic and financial, in particular) of SMEs have to be overcome if these firms are to compete successfully in the context of new market trends. The triple bottom line approach (Elkington, 2004) and medium-long term strategies should be adopted as a matter of priority. The shift to new business models is proving ever more advisable for SMEs (Klewitz and Hansen, 2014; Jernström et al., 2017), particularly in light of some of the overarching realities on the ground (such as the Sustainable Development Goals)...

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