Foreword

Handbook of Research on Social Entrepreneurship and Solidarity Economics is much more than an academic text about entrepreneurship and economic issues. It is an extraordinary academic work which possesses the power of unimaginable social transformation because it joins researchers of the highest caliber from four continents (Europe (Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the UK), Asia (India and Turkey), Africa (Namibia), and America (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Nicaragua) for the purpose of creating a new economic vision that is able to build a global will of a powerful social entrepreneurship.

This book illuminates the path we should walk to convert the actual crisis in a huge opportunity to begin a new economy which will assure the present and future generations the best opportunities to live with dignity, health and happiness. It is a book that illuminates the path we should walk to transform the current economy into one that is more equitable and inclusive.

Researchers involved in this text agree to promote an economy that promotes cooperation, not competition and a society that encourages collaboration and solidarity not selfishness. So we anticipate that this book will be very important for the process that will change the current relationship between producers and consumers in each party want to get the greatest possible benefit to a mutually beneficial relationship. This publication promotes a kind of entrepreneurship and an economy that goes beyond numbers and figures. The book presents another vision of the economy and entrepreneurship which does not exclude as relevant economic values: the pursuit of happiness, the promotion of culture of peace, the protection and care of nature, the civic and ethics education and the respect of the cultural identity of any community. This is the time to develop an economic theory with a holistic vision that harmonizes the social element with the economic outcomes; that combine solidarity with business efficiency; induce the best synergy between environmental sustainability and the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

Undoubtedly this is a book of high academic value but is much more than that. This extraordinary intellectual and academic work has a dimension that goes beyond being a textbook or reference. This book will build a bridge between economic theory and praxis of communities that are rebuilding the human, economics and social relationships to ensure the full development of the human being; It is a book that will serve as a cornerstone for networking and multi-sectorial alliances providing the best scientific and theoretical knowledge required for leaders of different sectors to design and implement plans for sustainable economic development and ultimately serve as a guide and inspiration for the most vulnerable communities to activate and use their creative capacity to overcome poverty, inequality and marginalization. This book is also a tribute to all the people who do and make others do what is necessary to hope and happiness will be a right of all and not the privilege of a few people.

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