Rethinking Innovation: Inclusive Practices and Interdisciplinary Perspectives

ERUA's annual conference provides a platform to explore the theory and practice of social innovation. The 2024 conference was focused on "the role that universities play in critiquing, questioning, nurturing and developing social innovations". The 2025 SOCIN conference, organised under the aegis of ERUA and the Safina-Vitality project, coordinated by the University of Macerata, invites scholars, academics, practitioners, innovators and policymakers to rethink the very idea of innovation for societal benefits and to explore inclusive, interdisciplinary, and critical approaches that move beyond conventional paradigms. We encourage submissions that investigate the many dimensions of (social) innovation; the factors that are shaping the landscape of innovation and social change; the role of education within the field; how research can actively respond to shifting societal needs, foster inclusive benefits, and engage meaningfully with communities. Innovation may be a buzzword, but innovative solutions to complex societal challenges, global crises, and 'wicked problems' remain a priority in policy discourse. Starting from this premise, the 2025 SOCIN conference aims to stimulate lively and productive discussions, to showcase good practices, and forge new collaborations around a topic of great relevance to our academic and non-academic communities.

We welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes. We encourage creative interpretations.

- Questioning innovation
- Inclusive practices across sectors
- Societal impact of research
- Humanities in social innovation
- Community-led innovation
- Technological 'fixes' (opportunities and drawbacks)
- Social innovation and Cultural Heritage
- Social innovation and active ageing
- Accessibility: innovative solutions
- Gendered innovations
- Social entrepreneurship
- Financing social innovation
- Creative and cultural entrepreneurship
- Practical aspects of social innovation (design, implementation, dissemination)
- Social innovation and circular economy
- Social innovation and the Third Sector
- Case-based approaches to social innovation
- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives
- The rhetoric and ideology of innovation
- Social innovations and migration
- The environment and climate change
- Innovation through artistic practices
- Democracy and human rights
- Artificial Intelligence for social innovations

Submission guidelines

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 16th, 2025
Notification of acceptance: by May 4th, 2025.
For individual **papers**, send **250-word proposals**; for **panels**, send individual proposals plus a 250-word **panel description.** Please include a **short bio** with your name, affiliation, and email address. Proposals that are interdisciplinary in method or panels that involve multiple disciplines are especially welcome.
Submit your abstract at this link: https://www.conftool.net/socin2025/