



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



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Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP: DEVELOPMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND PRACTICE

*Final conference of the project MIG.EN.CUBE*

**27<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 - SALA BORSA, PIAZZA DEL NETTUNO 3, BOLOGNA**

The conference is a **policy-practice-academic forum** aiming to discuss entrepreneurial support initiatives and policy initiatives undertaken to diverse migrant entrepreneurs. It is organized as a two-day event: the first day is open to multi-stakeholder interaction, and the second day is focused on academic papers.

### OVERVIEW 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (see details [here](#))

<b>9:30-10:00</b>	Registration
<b>10:00-10:10</b>	Institutional greetings
<b>10:10-10:25</b>	Introducing the conference and the project MIG.EN.CUBE
<b>10:25-10:40</b>	Reflections on local public policies, international mobility, and entrepreneurship
<b>10:40-11:20</b>	Keynote speakers
<b>11:20-12:30</b>	Panel discussion
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	Q&A session
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Light lunch
<b>14:00-16:00</b>	Parallel working groups: debating the issues and constructing new actions
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	Plenary session to share works of the working groups
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	Keynote speaker
<b>20:30</b>	Social dinner (invited speakers)

### OVERVIEW 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (see details [here](#))

<b>9:00-10:30</b>	Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations (parallel sessions)
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Coffee break
<b>11:00-12:30</b>	Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations (parallel sessions)
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	Closing plenary session
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Light lunch

## Scientific Committee

- ❖ Daniela Bolzani (Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna)
- ❖ Benson Honig (DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University)
- ❖ Monder Ram (Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship, Aston Business School)
- ❖ Rosana Reis (ISG International Business School)
- ❖ Vittoria Scalera (Amsterdam Business School, University of Amsterdam)

## Local organizing committee

Giuseppe Simone, Francesca Regoli, Fardeen Dodo, Elena Sinico, Giulia Marino, Firdawss Gartite, Laura Toschi, Federica Bandini (Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna).

## Participation

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

The registration closed on **20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**.

**Information:** [Conference website](#) of the [MIG.EN.CUBE project](#)

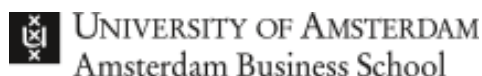
**Contacts:** [migencube@unibo.it](mailto:migencube@unibo.it)



## MIG.EN.CUBE project partners



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## Conference co-organizers



## DETAILED CONFERENCE PROGRAM

27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023

The first day of the conference is dedicated to creating a multi-stakeholder platform to allow policy-practice-academic dialogue, reflection, and interaction.

### AGENDA - 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023: MORNING SESSION

**9:30-10:00** Registration

**10:00-10:10** Institutional greetings

**Angelo Paletta** (Director, Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna)

**Cristina de Maria** (Rector's Delegate for Equity Diversity and Inclusion, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna)

**10:10-10:25** Introducing the conference and the project MIG.EN.CUBE: **Daniela Bolzani** (Associate Professor, Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna and MIG.EN.CUBE principal investigator)

**10:25-10:40** Reflections on local public policies, international mobility and entrepreneurship

**Rosa Grimaldi** (Professor of Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship and Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Innovation, and International attraction, Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna)

**Gian Luca Baldoni** (Responsible for the Internationalization Unit, Emilia-Romagna Region)

**10:40-10:55** Keynote speaker: **David Halabisky** (project coordinator, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities)

**10:55-11:20** Keynote speaker: **Monder Ram** (Full Professor, Aston Business School, and Director, Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship)

**11:20-12:30** Panel discussion

**Shawgi Ahmed** (Director of Public Leadership, PLACE Network), **Chiara Davalli** (Senior Project Leader, European Business Innovation Centre Network), **Patrick Landi** (Partner, Venture Capital OPES Italia Sicaf), **Silsila Mahboub** (Entrepreneur, Representative of European Coalition of Migrants and Refugees – EU-COMAR), **Vira Mistry** (Entrepreneur, Development practitioner and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion specialist), **Giuseppe Torluccio** (Vice President, Grameen Foundation Italia, and Full Professor of Financial Markets and Institutions, Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna).

Moderator: **Marina Sarli** (EU Programs Lead at Impact Hub Network).

**12:30-13:00** Q&A session

**13:00-14:00** Light lunch

## AGENDA - 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023: AFTERNOON SESSION

<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<b>Parallel working groups: debating the issues and constructing new actions.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) Nurturing refugee entrepreneurship between liabilities of refuge and assets of mixed embeddedness</b> (co-organized by LEMEX - Chair in Small Business &amp; Entrepreneurship, Universität Bremen, and Fondazione Generali – The Human Safety Net). The detailed program of the session is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li><li><b>2) Inclusive entrepreneurial support: theory and practice</b> (co-organized by European Business Innovation Centre Network, Impact Hub Amsterdam, ISG International Business School, PLACE Network). The detailed program of the session is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li><li><b>3) Migration as an opportunity for international entrepreneurship</b> (co-organized by International Organization for Migration). The detailed program of the session is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li><li><b>4) Building thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems: Financial and non-financial services</b> (co-organized by the Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna, and Microfinanza s.r.l.). The detailed programme of the session is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ol>
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Plenary session:</b> sharing experiences and propositions for actions based on the four working groups.
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	<b>Keynote speaker: Benson Honig</b> (Full Professor, De Groote School of Business, McMaster University, and founder of Reframery)
<b>20:30</b>	<b>Social dinner (invited speakers)</b>

## 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023

The second day of the conference is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of academic papers. The detailed program for the parallel sessions is available [here](#).

## AGENDA - 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023

<b>9:00-10:30</b>	<b>Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations. Parallel sessions.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Refugee Entrepreneurship</li><li>Micro-Macro Relationships</li><li>Policies and Supports</li></ol>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:00-12:30</b>	<b>Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations. Parallel sessions.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Refugee Entrepreneurship</li><li>Transnationalism and Return</li><li>Policies and Supports</li></ol>
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<b>Closing plenary session</b> Harvesting and harnessing academic research around policy and practice developments.
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Light lunch</b>

## WORKING GROUPS

**Parallel Working Group 1: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (14:00-16:00) (Sala Incontri, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

### **Nurturing refugee entrepreneurship between liabilities of refuge and assets of mixed embeddedness**

#### **14:00-14:10 - Part 1: Introduction**

Introductory remarks by Jörg Freiling (LEMEX - Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Universität Bremen), Tenzin Yeshi (LEMEX - Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Universität Bremen), and Stefano Rovelli (Fondazione Generali – The Human Safety Net)

#### **14:10-14:40 - Part 2: Paper Ideas Presentations** - Chair: Tenzin Yeshi

- Sadhana Manik (University of KwaZulu-Natal): Refugee entrepreneurship in South Africa: A literature review of discourses and policy gaps
- David Jepson (Ashley Community Housing - ACH): Siloed policy approaches to migrant entrepreneurship: Insights from the UK

#### **14:40-15:20 - Part 3: Interactive Panel Discussion** - Moderation: Jörg Freiling

Panel members:

- Alexandra David, researcher at IAT, Gelsenkirchen, Germany, involved in the Enter2Transform EU-funded project
- Silsila Mahoub, Entrepreneur, Refugee, and Representative of EU-COMAR

Plenary discussion

#### **15:20-15:55 - Part 4: Group Activity "Painting the Future"** - Moderation: Stefano Rovelli

Collecting and uniting the voices and views of the participants and putting it all together: group work and plenary

- Participants will be divided into small groups and asked to reflect on what actions they would take, individually and as a collective, to implement learnings that emerged in the previous sessions in their own research/practice. Groups will be asked to identify specific challenges or barriers that will need to be overcome for this to happen.
- In plenary, a spokesperson for each group will share key reflections and participant “pledges”.

**15:55-16:00 - Part 5: Wrap-up, moving on and staying together:** Conclusive remarks and assessment of the session.

**Participation** is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration closed on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

**Contacts:** Jörg Freiling via [freiling@uni-bremen.de](mailto:freiling@uni-bremen.de); Stefano Rovelli via [Stefano.Rovelli@generali.com](mailto:Stefano.Rovelli@generali.com); Tenzin Yeshi via [tenzin@uni-bremen.de](mailto:tenzin@uni-bremen.de).

**This working group is co-organized by:** LEMEX (Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship), Universität Bremen; Fondazione Generali – The Human Safety Net



## Parallel Working Group 2: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (14:00-16:00) (Sala Conferenze, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

### Inclusive entrepreneurial support: Theory and practice

**14:00-14:40 - Part 1: Introduction and ice-breaking** (Michele Caleffi, PLACE Network)

**14:40-15:00 - Part 2: Inspiration**

- Vira Mistry (Entrepreneur, Development practitioner and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion specialist)
- Rosana Reis (ISG International Business School)

Debate with the participants.

**15:00-15:30 - Part 3: Designing and delivering inclusive entrepreneurial support programs**

- Chiara Davalli (European Business Innovation Centre Network): from “being open to everyone” to “being inclusive to everyone”. Becoming aware about and acting upon inclusion issues in incubation practices.
- Rosana Reis (ISG International Business School): the role of training to foster the competences of incubation professionals in incubating migrants – launch of the Incubating Migrants MOOC.
- Rutger de Rijk (Impact Hub Amsterdam): practical insights into how to develop and improve social and communication competences to work with migrant entrepreneurs – launch of the Inclusive Incubation Guidebook.

**15:30-16:00 - Part 4: Interact, share and propose** (Rutger de Rijk, Impact Hub Amsterdam)

Participants will be able to present their experiences in providing support to migrant entrepreneurs, share practices that they have created or problems that they are not able to solve. The guided session aims at stimulating collective reflection and creation of potential solutions or future propositions.

An assessment of the session will be carried out to allow participants reflecting on their learning.

**Participation** is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration closed on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

**Contacts:** Rosana Reis ([rosana.reis@isg.fr](mailto:rosana.reis@isg.fr))

**This working group is co-organized by:** European Business Innovation Centre Network, Impact Hub Amsterdam, ISG International Business School, Place Network



## Parallel Working Group 3: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (14:00-16:00) (Sala Auditorium, main)

### Migration as an opportunity for international entrepreneurship

#### 14:00-14:10 - Part 1: Introduction

Introductory remarks and presentation of the panel by ROBERT KLOOSTERMAN, Emeritus Professor of Economic Geography and Planning at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

The panel consists of scholars and practitioners who will bring attention to a different dimension of the contribution that migration can bring to international entrepreneurship and investments. Scholars in the panel have been chosen among those who participated in the call for abstracts launched in the framework of the conference. Practitioners work in the field of migrant and multicultural entrepreneurship, including key actors and stakeholders of the **E-Merge**<sup>1</sup> initiative implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

#### 14:10-14:40 - Part 2: Paper Idea Discussion (8min presentation + 7min discussion)

- **ALMA LUTAJ** – The UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), University College of London, London, England. *Diaspora networks as catalyst in diaspora entrepreneurship*.
- **MERITA ZULFIU ALILI** – Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences, SEEU. *Return migration, entrepreneurship and development in North Macedonia*.

#### 14:40-15:10 – Part 3: Practitioners' interventions

- **FABIO SANTONI**, coach&tutor of StudENT for Africa, a project of the University of Bologna that develops, accompanies and supports business ideas for Africa designed by students as part of the [Startup Day](#).
- **DANIELE PANZERI**, IOM – E-Merge project lead and co-organizer of the working group.
- **PAULA ANDREA CALLEJAS GREIFFENSTEIN**, MINRL – Artisanal jewelry that privileges the use of Fairmined, recycled or environmentally sustainable materials; one of the multicultural enterprises which participated to E-Merge.
- **BARBARA SETTI**, FONDAZIONE FINANZA ETICA – Integrated actions to support entrepreneurship of third-country citizens in Italy. Outcomes of the call *Microcredito per grandi idee* (Microcredit for great ideas) 2 years after its launch; Fondazione Finanza Etica is a partner in the E-Merge program.

#### 15:10-15:50 - Part 4: Q&A from the audience

The moderator will open the floor to the audience for a Q&A session in order to collect reactions to panelists' interventions and inputs to continue the discussion on the topic of the working group.

#### 15:50-16:00 - Part 5: Wrap up and Key recommendations

This concluding part will be conducted by the moderator and is dedicated to a summary of action-oriented joint recommendations for policy-makers, practitioners and academics, which came from participants' inputs and discussions.

**Participation** is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration closed on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

**Contacts:** Daniele Panzeri [dpanzeri@iom.int](mailto:dpanzeri@iom.int); Caterina Dollorenzo [cdollorenzo@iom.int](mailto:cdollorenzo@iom.int); Marcella Pasotti [mpasotti@iom.int](mailto:mpasotti@iom.int)

**This working group is co-organized by:** International Organization for Migration.



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<sup>1</sup> The E-Merge initiative, implemented by IOM and funded through the Voluntary Contribution from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, aims to support Italy-based enterprises, emphasizing the added value that multicultural backgrounds bring to business by contributing to both their internationalization as well as improving their developmental impact. The pilot edition was implemented between 2020 and 2022 and supported four multicultural enterprises through training, individual coaching and by assisting them in accessing credit through the partner Banca Etica. Following the pilot edition, E-Merge will continue to support and promote multicultural enterprises with a social impact based in Italy, leveraging the value of cultural diversity for the achievement of the SDGs and their internationalization.



## Parallel Working Group 4: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 (14:00-16:00) (Sala Auditorium, lateral)

### Building thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems:

### Financial and non-financial support services

#### **14:00-14:10 - Part 1: Introduction**

Introductory remarks by Davide Libralesso (Microfinanza), Laura Toschi (Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna)

#### **14:10-14:40 - Part 2: Inspiration for reflection and debate**

In this part, we will listen to and discuss with academics, entrepreneurs, and financing organizations to understand what are the challenges and opportunities in establishing connections between migrant entrepreneurs, support services, finance and investment bodies, and institutions? The participants to the working group will be able to start a conversation building on the following contributions:

- Ebru Sarikaya (research associate, University of Mannheim)
- Valentina Primo (founder, Start-up Without Borders)
- Camilla Spadavecchia (assistant professor, Tilburg University)
- Vittoria San Pietro (Emilbanca)

#### **14:40-15:30 – Part 3: Tacking stock of practices for financial services**

In this part, some of the practices available to financially support migrant entrepreneurship initiatives, such as microcredit, impact investment funds, crowdfunding, grants, cryptocurrencies and other financing tools will be presented.

These presentations will open the floor to additional experiences offered by the participants to the working group.

#### **15:30-16:00 - Part 4: Moving forward**

**Participation** is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration closed on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

**Contacts:** Davide Libralesso (Microfinanza s.r.l.) [davide.libralesso@microfinanza.com](mailto:davide.libralesso@microfinanza.com)

**This working group is co-organized by:** Department of Management, Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna and Microfinanza s.r.l.



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**ACADEMIC PAPERS PARALLEL SESSIONS: 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

<b>Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations – Parallel Session “Refugee Entrepreneurship”</b>			
<b>Chair: Benson Honig - Room Auditorium</b>			
<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
9:00	9:15	Lukas Valek	Social Entrepreneurship of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic: Necessity or Opportunity? (paper idea development)
9:15	9:35	Hulya Kaya	From refugee to entrepreneur: understanding the challenges of refugee entrepreneurs in Istanbul (advanced paper presentation)
9:35	9:55	Mustafa Ozbilgin	Entrepreneurial emancipation of marginalised (displaced) entrepreneurs: Syrian refugees in Turkey (advanced paper presentation)
9:55	10:15	Jörg Freiling, Tenzin Yeshi	Investigating the role of religion on displaced migrant entrepreneurship (advanced paper presentation)
10:15	10:35	Samaneh Khademi	Syrian refugee entrepreneurship in the Netherlands from an intersectional approach (advanced paper presentation)
<b>10:35</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00	11:20	Eunice Cascant	Ecosystem embeddedness by female refugee social entrepreneurs in France (advanced paper presentation)
11:20	11.40	Tenzin Yeshi	Harnessing the resilience and embeddedness of refugee entrepreneurship (advanced paper presentation)
11:40	12:00	Alexandra David, Sabina Kubiciel, Jolanta Maj	Much ado about refugee entrepreneurship: Do Ukrainian refugees in Poland show a higher propensity to start a business than Ukrainian economic migrants? (advanced paper presentation)
12:00	12:20	Isilay Talay	Investigation of common success factors for refugee entrepreneurs in Türkiye (advanced paper presentation)
12:20	12:30	Additional Q&As and discussion time	

**Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations – Parallel Session “Micro-Macro Relationships”**

**Chair: Rosana Reis - Room “Sala Incontri” (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
9:00	9:20	Erika Branca	Immigrant-founded firms' entrepreneurial orientation and performance: the moderating role of founders' acculturation process (advanced paper presentation)
9:20	9:40	Veselina Stoyanova	How does foreignness influence the resource orchestration process? A study of migrant entrepreneurs (advanced paper presentation)
9:40	10:00	Andrea Lasagni	Migrant firms and the host economy: isolation or integration? New evidence for Italy (advanced paper presentation)
10:00	10:20	Eleni Chiarapini	Are migrant social entrepreneurs different? Case studies of work integration social enterprises in the UK (advanced paper presentation)
10:20	10:40	Asma Naimi	Pathways towards emancipation: Identity work and social entrepreneurship by and for migrant communities (advanced paper presentation)
10:40	11:00	Coffee break	

**Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations – Parallel Session “Transnationalism and Return”**

**Chair: Vittoria Scalera - Room “Sala Incontri” (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
11:00	11:15	Robert Kloosterman	Migrant entrepreneurs and global production networks; concepts and policy implications (paper idea development)
11:15	11:30	Daniela Bolzani	Pivoting business ideas in the context of migrant returnee entrepreneurship (paper idea presentation)
11:30	11:50	Qiong Wu	My business or my country: the role of concurrent embeddedness in host country and home country on the performance of immigrant entrepreneurs' business (advanced paper presentation)
11:50	12:10	Jan Brzozowski	Return migration and entrepreneurship: longitudinal evidence from Poland (advanced paper presentation)
12:10	12:30	Valdet Hadri	Returned migrants and remittances for development of family entrepreneurship in Kosovo: Findings based upon a qualitative interview (advanced paper presentation)

**Academic Papers Idea Development and Advanced Presentations – Parallel Session “Policies and supports”**

**Chair: Monder Ram - Room “Sala Conferenze” (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
9:00	9:15	Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman	Thailand's smart S Visa policy: its compatibility with migrant entrepreneurship (paper idea development)
9:15	9:30	Wendy Wu	Mind the gaps: a holistic review of the graduate entrepreneur visa scheme from the perspective of a university-based business incubator (paper idea development)
9:30	9:50	Maria Elo	Attracting new entrepreneurs: Migration policy responses for entrepreneurship and preferred migrants (advanced paper presentation)
9:50	10:10	Eunice Cascant	Ecosystem embeddedness by female refugee social entrepreneurs in France (advanced paper presentation)
10:10	10:25	Ebru Sarikaya	Do financial institutions discriminate against minority entrepreneurs? (paper idea development)
10:25	10:35	Additional Q&As and discussion time	
<b>10:35</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00	11:20	Nina Lazarczyk-Bilal	Gap between entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurial support - newly arrived immigrants in Sweden (advanced paper presentation)
11:20	11:40	Stoyan Stoyanov	Mentors as identity work Orchestrators: facilitating migrant entrepreneurs' integration abroad (advanced paper presentation)
11:40	12:00	Florian Koehne	Interstitial spaces as informal accelerators for the social integration of refugees and migrants (advanced paper presentation)
12:00	12:15	Cecilia Olivieri and Shaghayegh Attar	The meaningful diversity blueprint book: A qualitative research to meet the community-to-community economic ecological-investment model (paper idea development)
12:15	12.30	Dimitris Polychronopoulos	Home country considerations and migrant entrepreneurial support programs in Norway (paper idea development)