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# Editorial

## KEY-WORDS

ENTREPRENEURIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS, SOCIAL PURPOSES, SOCIETAL VALUE CREATION, SOCIAL CAPITAL, PARTICIPATORY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

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Since July 2025, I have had the honor of serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity* (JEOD). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to EURICSE (European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises), whose generous support maintains the journal and who entrusted me with this important role. As I prepared this editorial, two key observations emerged. First, JEOD's editorial structure is already solid and effective, as demonstrated by the publication of this issue, the first under my supervision. This achievement reflects the excellent work of previous Editors-in-Chief, Associate Editors, and all members of the editorial team. Second, the direction I intend to pursue closely aligns with the vision articulated in the earlier editorials by Borzaga, Ferri and Sabatini (2012) and Borzaga and Sacchetti (2017). This continuity with the vision outlined by past Editors-in-Chief allows us to be confident in the coherence, soundness and validity of the trajectory we aim to pursue for the journal.

Contrary to Fukuyama's early thesis of an "end of history" (Fukuyama, 1992), which posited convergence toward a liberal, capitalist paradigm<sup>1</sup>— though Fukuyama himself has since (partially)

<sup>1</sup> The most influential application of this principle in the field of corporate governance is in Hansmann and Kraakman (2001), who argued that the shareholder-value model had effectively displaced all other governance forms. Subsequent developments, however, suggest that history did not, in fact, come to an end (see Roe and Vatiero, 2025, and Vatiero, 2017a; 2017b; 2025).

revised his position (e.g., Fukuyama, 2012; 2018)—*diversity matters*. This principle lies at the core of JEOD's mission. The journal aims to foster a constructive and ongoing debate on entrepreneurial, organizational, and institutional diversity by examining the wide variety of organizational forms and governance models that emerge in response to different societal challenges, thus generating distinct incentive structures, institutional responses, and behavioral outcomes. Since its inception, JEOD has published research spanning a broad range of alternative organizational forms, with particular attention to enterprises characterized by participatory and democratic governance, and to their relationship with local development and social sustainability (Borzaga, Ferri and Sabatini, 2012).

A central aspect I wish to stress is the *institutionalist* dimension of such diversity, in continuity with the reflections of former Editors-in-Chief (cf. Borzaga, Ferri and Sabatini, 2012; Borzaga and Sacchetti, 2017). This perspective, deeply inspired by the work of Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom (e.g., Ostrom 2006; 2010), rejects one-size-fits-all governance models and highlights the success of community self-organization through polycentric institutional arrangements grounded in participation and local autonomy as mechanisms to address market failures<sup>2</sup>. The conference letter in this issue—authored by Ali Tanweer and Marek Hudik and devoted to the latest WINIR (World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research) conference, a leading forum for institutional scholarship<sup>3</sup>—both endorses and further strengthens this institutionalist orientation.

JEOD warmly welcomes rigorous theoretical and empirical contributions that explore the diversity of organizational forms and governance models, particularly those promoting sustainable relationships among individuals, communities, and their environments, as well as participatory decision-making practices. The journal encourages research on cooperatives, social enterprises, mutuals, associations, foundations, and other organizational types, with special attention to comparative institutional analysis and innovative methodological approaches to understanding organizations and governance as instruments for inclusive collective action. As societal challenges evolve, organizational and institutional responses must evolve accordingly, requiring additional research on both traditional and emerging forms. JEOD aims to capture these developments by fostering academic dialogue and public debate.

JEOD serves as an open platform for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary scholarship, drawing on economics, management, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, law, and political science. It is also committed to open access, ensuring that all published work remains freely available and thus supporting the broad dissemination of knowledge and enhancing scholarly visibility within the international academic community.

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<sup>2</sup> It is worth recalling one prominent—though not always fully understood or consistently applied—strand of institutional research, of which Elinor Ostrom represents a distinguished expression: institutional economics. Foundational contributions include Commons (1924), Williamson (1985), and North (1990), together with more recent work such as Voigt (2019). I may also mention some of my own contributions to this literature: Pagano and Vatiero (2015), and Vatiero (2013; 2021; 2024).

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://winir.org>

Finally, we are currently undergoing a refresh of the editorial board, and new members will soon join us. Their contribution will help JEOD continue to grow, strengthen the quality of its publications, and enhance its international visibility.

I warmly invite the academic community to contribute and engage with this collective effort.

Massimiliano Vatriero  
Editor-in-Chief

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