Editorial

Volume 6 of RIESISE, following its editorial line, presents a total of 7 articles and 2 Ibero-American cooperative experiences in the coffee and ethical finance sectors. In accordance with this theme, the authors belong to Ibero-American entities, mainly universities, located in Brazil (Federal University of Santa Maria, Ecuador (Universidad Técnica Estatal de Quevedo and Universidad Técnica Estatal de Manabí), Spain (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Mancha, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Universidad de Sevilla and Cooperativa Autonomía Sur) and Mexico (Universidad Autónoma de Chipango).

Many of these papers are based on the contributions presented at the I Ibero-American Meeting on the Solidarity Economy and Socioecological Innovation, held at the University of Santiago de Cali (Colombia), on October 14 and 15, 2022, which established the Ibero-American Network of Researchers in Solidarity Economy and Socio-Ecological Innovation (RIIESISE), organized by Professors Fabio Orejuela-Barberi and Ricardo Astudillo-Villegas. We are grateful for this important undertaking, the organization of the event, as well as the constitution and first initiatives of the Network. We hope to be able to hold the II Meeting in 2024 in some Ibero-American universities represented in the Network through their researchers.

The present volume begins with an article by Díaz-Galán, “Pandemic and Human Rights: Ensuring Equality in the International Order”, which analyzes the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups at the international level and, on this basis, reflects on the need to consider this experience when designing public policies on health, education, etc., highlighting the important role the social and solidarity economy can play in guaranteeing the social rights of these groups.

The second article, “Cooperativism in tourism and its contribution to the SDGs: a bibliographical: and bibliographic review”, authored by Elizondo-Saltos Hernán, analyzes the themes, journals, and authors of the articles on tourism and cooperativism, to then highlight the relationships between this research and the SDGs. It concludes that this line of research is in the beginning stages and that some articles consulted relate cooperativism
to the collaborative economy, based on the application of technological platforms to tourism, without referring to the social economy.

In the third article, “Research on energy cooperatives: A network analysis”, authored by Cobeñas-Ruiz-Lopera, Pérez-Suárez and Sánchez-Torné, through a bibliographic scan and a network analysis (UciNet), three networks were constructed: the authors, the centers of affiliation, and the countries where the academic papers on energy cooperatives originate.

It is concluded that these collaborative networks are fragmented and cooperation among authors is carried out at the local level, since the authors tend to belong to the same institution and country.

The fourth article, “Key criteria in the selection of projects for impact venture Capital funds,” authored by Longares-Perez, Perea-Osuna and Jimenez-Barandalla, identifies the main criteria for the selection of projects by venture capital funds. It is concluded that the criteria relating to impact, from the perspective of solving real problems and with great potential for change, as well as the project and the team that drives the project based on leadership and experience, are the most decisive factors.

In the fifth article, “The informal economy: an analysis of its causes and consequences in the Rocafuerte-Ecuador market.”, by Luque-González and Raluca Gh. Popescu, an analysis is undertaken of informal commerce in Rocafuerte canton, Manabí province (Ecuador), demonstrating that these processes are part of the current social and economic reality, making the processes of social inclusion and development more complex. The need to analyze these activities is highlighted, in order to develop and promote inclusion processes based on the knowledge of their weaknesses, as this is a socioeconomic reality of a certain magnitude, which is outside the scope of official statistics.

The sixth article, “Solidarity economy, resilience and innovation: an analysis of the Esperanza/ Coesperanza project”, by Machado-Sena, Martins-Gimarães and Rodrigues Da Silva, is based on an analysis of the historical evolution and institutionalization of the solidarity economy in Brazil based on the Esperanza/ Coesperanza project. It confirms the importance of the solidarity economy in generating employment and wealth, in particular when it comes to guaranteeing the resilience of these processes, which is evidenced in the qualitative analysis of this case study.

In the seventh article, “ODS and inclusive education from different experiences of systemic theater” by the authors Simón-Medina and Luque-Perez, highlights the potential of systemic theater as an educational methodology that can contribute to improving the situation of poverty faced by students who are demotivated, fail, drop out of school and are at risk of social exclusion, considering it necessary to include this teaching-learning methodology during the initial stages of teacher training.

The eighth article corresponds to an experience titled “The principles of cooperativism from the perspective of coffee growers in the Otomí-Tepehua sierra of the State of Hidalgo (Mexico)”, authored by Martinion-
Dircio and Santos-Cerventes. The analysis of this experience aims to understand the organizational processes of the Ñu-Xahoi coffee growers’ cooperative in the Otomi-Tepehua mountains of Hidalgo. It shows how this cooperative implements cooperative principles linked to freedom of association, democratic processes and the promotion of an ecological culture. It also includes principles that come from their indigenous culture, such as ancestral knowledge; solidarity, self-management practices; and cooperative practices both with partners and their communities as well as with nature.

Finally, the ninth article, “A cooperative experience of alternative financing. The case of COOP57”, by Betanzos-Martín, Ocaña-Scholar and Guerrero Mayo, analyzes the experience of a Spanish ethical financial cooperative, focusing on the description of this project: origin, principles and values, organizational model and recent evolution. It concludes that this financial cooperative represents a financial and solidarity-based financial alternative, whose objective is to finance projects of the social and solidarity economy.

In short, this volume of the journal highlights, once again, the contributions that can be made with a different way of understanding and implementing economics, based on cooperative and social economy values and principles, when facing the main problems generated by the current economic model, such as: inequalities, processes of exclusion, informal economy, resilience in the face of continuous economic crises, as well as the financing of alternative projects, in the face of the financial exclusion processes generated by the current system. Therefore, we hope that reading these contributions will be fruitful for the readers, and that it will shed some light on how to approach applied research that will ultimately be useful in improving quality of life.