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## Introduction

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This special issue, titled “Knowledge and Sustainability: Reflections to Achieve Balanced Societies”, of the *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development* brings together some publications selected from those presented at the international conference EDaSS on Economic Development and Social Sustainability, in its seventh edition, whose main objective was to provide reflections from different scientific points of view to achieve a broad and multi and transdisciplinary vision.

The importance of multidisciplinary perspectives for a whole vision of sustainable development has been underlining by several authors and from different scientific areas (Brundtland, 1987; Wright, 2002). It was put together practically under the umbrella of the Agenda 2030 boosted by the United Nations to implement sustainable economic development in the framework of social protection and inclusive societies and environmental preservation and protection (UN General Assembly, 2015).

Sustainable development not only must be environmental friendly (Ostrom, 2009) but also inclusive and conscious for all social statements and institutions (Leal Filho et al., 2015) as well as fair business (Barbieri and Bozzon, 2016; Diochon and Nizet, 2015), specifically in a disruptive innovative context (Brynjolfsson and McAfee, 2011).

The main purpose of this special issue is to encourage reflection and debate, theoretical and applied, about the impacts on the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic, and social) of the accelerated processes of technological advancement, especially those linked to technologies of information and communication (TICs). It provides some reflections about the possibilities of public action to promote sustainable adaptation by formulating public policies that are inclusive and respectful of the environment. The objective is to gather research addressing the problem from a panoramic outlook. A multidisciplinary approach is helpful for both academicians and politicians.

The selected published papers cover a broad spectrum. They go from a bibliometric review, carried out in-depth and with the precise detail to highlight the focus of the three pillars of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, to the analysis of trends in the scientific ones in the field of ecological and sustainable science and technology. Moreover, other papers present specific studies, for example, about certain attitudes towards ecology or reflections on innovation and ethics in the environment of sustainable business or the situation in universities regarding sustainability; or about the revision of publications in specific categories of bibliographic databases.

The concrete content of the selected paper is, in brief, as follows:

An exciting literature revision is made on the work published under the title ‘Analysis of social, environmental and economic sustainability core: a bibliometric overview’ and the paper ‘Detecting trends in sustainability publications: research development and dynamics in “Green and sustainable science and technology” category’ reviews the development and trends through an analysis of the papers listed in the Web of Science category ‘Green and sustainable science and technology’.

The ‘Sustainable business model innovation and ethics: a conceptual review from the institutional theory addressing (un)sustainability’ is focused on the implications of ethics,

and eco-justice norms in the development of new Sustainable Business Models, deeming the need for a supportive ethos that respects the diversity of life, justice for everyone and compromise with future generations, exposes humans' obligations towards social, ecological and economic needs, facilitates consumption patterns of resources to avoid Planet Boundaries, and encourages participation in decisions and co-creation of solutions for the good of all.

Different geographical areas and specific issues are analysed in the papers titled 'The influence of media exposure and trust on youth attitude towards greener Tainan' and in the paper titled 'What is the public opinion about universities and sustainability? a social media analysis among 'Spain' and across the world' dealing with a social media analysis in the Spanish' context. Even though their empirical analysis focuses on a particular country, the conceptual framework and the contextual behaviour could be interpreted worldwide, taking into account all region-specificities.

The reading of each of the papers is valuable itself. The whole special issue provides an outlook of fundamental issues on sustainability and socio-economics.

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