

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Rural Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*Series De Gruyter Studies in Knowledge Management and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems****Submission Deadline (Full Chapters): March 31, 2026***

EDITORS:

Claudia Dias, NECE, University of Beira Interior, Portugal**Christina Theodoraki**, Aix-Marseille University, IAE, CERGAM, France**Léo-Paul Dana**, Dalhousie University, Canada**Objective of the book:**

Entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) have become a central framework in entrepreneurship studies and policy. However, the field remains disproportionately focused on urban, innovation-driven contexts, while rural entrepreneurial ecosystems—and their relationship to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—have received limited attention by researchers.

Rural regions face distinct challenges, including limited infrastructure, sparse institutional support, and reduced access to capital. These conditions particularly affect marginalized groups—such as women, migrants, older adults, and persons with disabilities—who often remain invisible in mainstream EEs research and policy. This book seeks to examine how rural entrepreneurial ecosystems function for, and are shaped by, these diverse actors. Moreover, the book critically engages with how DEI is manifested in key ecosystem elements, including finance, mentorship, digital infrastructure, and policy frameworks. It goes beyond representational diversity to examine the deeper structural barriers and enabling conditions that influence inclusive entrepreneurship.

Academics, researchers and practitioners are invited to explore DEI in Rural EEs through empirical, theoretical, or comparative perspectives. Interdisciplinary perspectives are also welcome.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Rural EEs: Barriers and Opportunities
- Gender Equity in Rural EEs
- Migrant Diversity and Inclusion in Rural EEs
- Youth and Elderly Participation in Rural EEs
- Disability and Accessibility in Rural EEs
- Rural Entrepreneurial Failure and Inclusion
- Digital Inclusion and Smart Rural Development
- Policy frameworks supporting inclusive rural entrepreneurship
- Social innovation and community resilience in rural regions
- Actors, Networks, and Collaboration in Inclusive Rural EEs
- Access to Resources and Support Structures: Enablers and Barriers to Equity
- Minority Entrepreneurship in rural regions

Submissions procedure:

- The doc or docx format of manuscripts should be submitted to:
Claudia Dias (claudia.sofia.dias@ubi.pt);
Christina Theodoraki (christina.theodoraki@iae-aix.com);
Léo-Paul Dana (lp762359@dal.ca)
- The full chapter should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words (doc or docx format), including all sections.
- The book will be published in British English.
- Referencing style: APA 7th Edition.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Optional Abstract submission (up to 200 words): October 31, 2025
- Editorial decision on abstract: November 30, 2025
- Full chapter submission (7000-8000 words): March 31, 2026