

Social entrepreneurship is a relatively young discipline looking for innovative solutions to social issues such as social exclusion, poverty and unemployment. At the same time it is a practical ability of At the same time, it is practical ability to combine both economic and social aims. Nevertheless, it does not have any 'presumed' form, nor does it refer to any specific method of social assistance. By contrast, it occurs by means of unlocking and fulfilling the potential of those facing the risk of marginalization and takes the form of self-employment and self-help. For instance, such people (or leaders, who unite such people) create subjects of social economy, i.e. social enterprises, social cooperatives, occupational workshops, social integration centres as well as associations and foundations conducting business activity.

Recognizing the role of social entrepreneurs in search of social innovation aimed at combating marginalization and social exclusion, one should not forget that every good practice requires an in-depth theoretical and philosophical study. There is no denying, the issue of the normative and axiological determinants of social entrepreneurship has not yet been sufficiently addressed and studied. However, so far there are not any reliable principles of ethical behaviour and resolving moral dilemmas that could provide for an industry code of ethics for social entrepreneurs. Similarly, the catalogue of professional virtues characterizing a social entrepreneur requires further development. Also, social enterprises as peculiar organizations need to define the concept of socially responsible management in terms of relationships with stakeholders. Furthermore, the very social economy is based on values that are intuitively sensed, rather than clearly identified and described in the literature on this subject. The demands to fill this research gap are reported openly.

The main objective of the research is to identify and to describe the normative and axiological determinants of social entrepreneurship from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. Project will encompass three levels of analyses, typical of the studies within the domain of business ethics, namely: the *micro*-, *mezzo*- and *macro*-levels. At the *micro*-level (individual level) will consist in the development of the concept of the professional ethics of a social entrepreneurs. The *mezzo*-level (organizational level) will include the development of the concept of ethical principles in the management of social enterprise and the *macro*-level (systemic level) will include identifying, and describing the axiological determinants of social economy. The innovative character of the research conducted in the Project (in comparison with the existing ones) will consist in the application of a different perspective towards ethical analysis of social entrepreneurship, i.e. the personalist ethics, typical of the Catholic Social Teaching. It is therefore a study within the scope of the widely understood business ethics, taking into account the theological and moral views on social entrepreneur, management and the social economy as such.

The character of the research is conceptual and will be conducted based on the methodology characteristic of normative philosophical ethics and moral theology. Further to the above, in order to formulate the specific moral solutions, the author will use the method of analyzing the scientific literature within the field of social entrepreneurship, economy, theory of organization and management, business ethics, Catholic Social Teaching and moral theology. Also, it will be necessary to conduct historical analysis to indicate the origin of social entrepreneurship in addressing social issues in practice. In addition, obtaining answers to the specific research problems requires the application of the comparative method in order to indicate the axiological links between the Catholic Social Teaching and the values that determine the effective implementation of the idea of social entrepreneurship. The descriptive method will also be applied to characterize the key concepts related to the subject of the Project. Similarly, the method of synthesis will be necessary when drawing vital conclusions and developing the concepts of: the professional ethics of social entrepreneurs and the socially responsible business management. At the stage of the analysis the following categories of research materials will be used: the literature necessary to characterize social entrepreneurship, theological resources (i.e.: the Holy Bible, patristic literature, the documents of the Magisterium of the Church), the theological analyses, additional auxiliary literature.

The solutions achieved in the Project will be used to develop an ethical code of social entrepreneurs and other guidelines and recommendations for people working in the sector of social entrepreneurship. The results of the conducted study will be disseminated in the form of monographs and at least three scientific articles in international journals as well as in the form of several conference presentations.