



Ca' Foscari University of Venice

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: REBALANCE, Reframing disruptivE Business of multinAtional corporation and gLobal value chAins within democratic and iNclusive citizenship processes

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Horizon Europe

CALL: HORIZON-CL2-2021-DEMOCRACY-01

HOST DEPARTMENT: Department of Management

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Zirpoli Francesco

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 2.326.186,25	€ 395.089,25

ABSTRACT:

While globalization, financialization and monopolies increasingly weaken democracies, large companies are having an ever-greater influence on how democracy is enacted in Europe, leading to a 'market-conforming capitalism'. Firms are eluding regulation, lobbying for their own rather than citizens' interest, abusing human rights and push the abused to withdraw from democratic processes, fuelling populism. Some economic actors are experimenting with alternative models and demonstrating more interest in sustainability and tentative routes toward an alternative "democracy-conforming capitalism". In this debate, the application of political-science lenses has black-boxed large companies, while the viewpoint of management scholars has usually considered firms' economic gains rather than impact on society and democracy. This has left a gap in our understanding of the mutual influence among large companies and democracies. The REBALANCE project will fill this gap by investigating how large companies (1) have contributed to past and present threats to democracy; (2) can promote future democracy-enhancing business models and alternative organizational forms.

The project will identify:

- the most effective regulatory control of economic actors, which avoids anti-democratic distortions and reveals human rights violators, and what makes large firms accept or resist such control
- ways to tackle (self-)exclusion from the democratic participation of victims of business-related human rights infringements and other marginalized categories, relying on empowerment-centered partnerships between firms and other entities (e.g.. NGOs)
- whether and how companies respond to populisms, and how alternative organizational forms such as social enterprises might embed and foster democracy.

The expected project outcomes are in line with the call for: 'Theoretically and empirically robust recommendations aiming to instill greater democratic accountability and inclusion in economic processes.'

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1/10/2022	30/09/2025

BENEFICIARIES:

1 Università di Pisa	Italy	Coordinator
2 Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Italy	Partner

3 Hertie School Gemeinnutzige Gmbh	Germany	Partner
4 Wageningen University	Netherlands	Partner
5 Stockholms Universitet	Sweden	Partner
6 University of Bath	United Kingdom	Partner
7 Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University	Ukraine	Partner
8 Source International ONLUS	Italy	Partner
