

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

<p>Title: Investigation of the possible correlation between good governance and entrepreneurship of rural social enterprises</p>
<p>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</p> <p>The paper explores the relationship between the governance of a social enterprise and the strength of its enterprise. It is based on around 40 in-depth interviews with rural social enterprise boards carried out over the last 18 months (this work is still ongoing).</p>
<p>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</p> <p>The paper is based on a series of in-depth conversations structured around a standard template, covering 5 main areas of good governance: strategy and vision; financial and risk management; being transparent and accountable; working effectively; and integrity and honesty. The conversations are held with the whole board of the social enterprise (and in some cases their trading arms). The studies have been carried out as part of a 'health check' contract to look at the governance of social enterprises, and to thereafter make recommendations for improving governance. Often we are asked to carry out a health check because a funder is seeking reassurance that the organisation is robust. Around 30 case studies have been carried out to date and a further 10 or more will have been done by June. As part of the work, we also look at the history of the organisation, the skills and experience of the Board, and its finances and trading.</p>
<p>Findings</p> <p>There are a number of common themes that have arisen out of the studies, particularly around whether there is a link between good governance and enterprise. Initial findings would suggest that one doesn't guarantee the other, and in fact might stifle it. Other issues that have come to light are the understanding of the roles and responsibilities of directors, the understanding and scrutiny of finances, the relevance of the management of conflicts of interest in small communities, and the importance of strategic planning and a shared vision.</p>
<p>Practical implications</p> <p>The work raises a number of questions about what makes a robust social enterprise – good governance, a good manager, or something else. It also raises questions about what is the role of the Board in a social enterprise.</p>
<p>Policy Implications (if applicable)</p>

The findings have implications for funders in particular, in terms of what they should be looking for from organisations to give them the reassurance that funds will be used appropriately and efficiently.
What is the originality/value of paper The paper is based on a series of original interviews carried out using a consistent methodology.
Please state if your paper is a: Practitioner Paper OR Presentation only Happy with either!
Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper: <input type="checkbox"/> New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities and challenges for rural development <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Social Entrepreneurship

Are you interested in the Early-Career researcher development seminar on the 14th June?

No

To apply to participate in the Early-Career research development seminar, PhD applicants must submit a short project description (max 4 pages) with name, project title, affiliation, outline of methodology(ies) and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Post-doctoral researchers should submit a short description of their current research interest (max 1 page).