



CALL FOR PAPERS

3RD EMES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social innovation through social entrepreneurship in civil society

4-7 July 2011

Roskilde University, Roskilde (Denmark)

The EMES European Research Network, in partnership with the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (Roskilde University, Denmark), is pleased to announce the 3rd EMES International Research Conference, on the theme **Social innovation through social entrepreneurship in civil society**, which will take place on 4-7 July 2011, at the University of Roskilde, near Copenhagen (Denmark).

1. Conference theme

There is a growing interest, at the international level, in exploring how social innovation can help provide novel solutions to social problems, improve social cohesion and social capital, and enhance the fabric of civil society and the third sector through greater citizen involvement and participation. Typical areas of focus for social innovations are: welfare services, work integration, social inclusion, health care, education, fair/ethical trade, community and environmental work.

Social innovation not only promises to improve the quality of life of individuals and the social cohesion of communities; in some views, it can also play a role in tackling issues of competitiveness, by improving resource efficiency, and of sustainability, by addressing environmental challenges. In this way it demonstrates that there can be win-win solutions, rather than a zero-sum game where innovation makes investors and managers win and workers and communities lose.

The field of innovation has long been dominated by the commercial and industrial domain, where technological drivers and market demand operate within models which have moved beyond the individual and the organisation to inter-organisational perspectives and cluster dynamics. More recently, service innovation has been recognised as a field that is ripe for research, and increasing numbers of researchers are currently developing new theories and obtaining research findings in this field. It is now the turn of social innovation; like in the search for the Holy Grail or the philosophers' stone, expectations are high. It is hoped that social innovation can provide a way forward, at a time of crisis in welfare and in capitalism, where global growth fails in creating contented citizens.

There are different models of social innovation:

- In a **Schumpeterian perspective**, social entrepreneurs (who work at the crossroads of market, state and civil society, and frequently use diverse resources from the public, private and third sectors) - as individuals, groups and/or networks - create social enterprises that provide new products/services, use new processes, create new configurations of resources, are active in new sectors or implement new systems of production.
- In a **civil society perspective**, the dynamics of collective and democratic action and social movements articulate social needs, involve stakeholders and generate new ways of meeting needs, for example by reconfiguring resources, actors and policies.
- In a **social and solidarity economy perspective**, collective action processes may be facilitated through pre-existing value-based structures, as well as through institutional configurations that have been shaped to facilitate both grassroots action and dynamic leadership from the third sector.
- And in a perspective that builds on the **established knowledge about industrial and service innovation**, there are attempts to extend these concepts and theories to address social problems, firstly by examining the social impact of innovations (such as technology in health sector), and by exploring the utility of extending them into the field of social problems.

This conference aims to provide a forum for debate on new research findings and new perspectives/theories on social innovation through social entrepreneurship. It welcomes multi-disciplinary approaches and critical reflexive research; and although much current research on social enterprise and social entrepreneurship is more developed in Western countries, research on transition and less developed countries is most welcome. Indeed, since the EMES European Research Network was established in the mid-1990s, it has attempted to go beyond country and discipline-specific approaches, and has made multi-disciplinary, critical/reflexive and comparative perspectives central to its approach.

2. Research themes

All topics related to social innovation, social enterprises and social entrepreneurship in civil society are welcome. We welcome **every research that is grounded in the literature, that addresses significant research questions, and that includes findings that are supported by empirical findings (cases or surveys).**

Nonetheless, the conference will focus mainly on the following ten thematic areas:

- 1) **Conceptual issues:** There are several issues where conceptual clarification and development would benefit the field: what are appropriate definitions? What progress can be made to foster deeper mutual understanding and to build bridges among diverging schools of thought? How can conceptual frameworks be operationalised?

In such a perspective, what are the key issues regarding methodological approaches?

- 2) **Theoretical analyses across disciplines:** Much research on social enterprise has been informed by institutional and multi-disciplinary approaches. In addition, new developments in economics have also promised good progress in research on social enterprise. As for the field of social innovation, it includes a considerable diversity of approaches and perspectives. What are some of the challenges facing these approaches? On the other hand, what processes of consolidation and complementarity are taking/should take place?
- 3) **Models of social entrepreneurship:** Some parts of the discourse on social entrepreneurship emphasise bottom-up paths of social entrepreneurial activity, whilst others implicitly advocate elite networks for promoting entrepreneurial social action. Considering the differences regarding the engagement of ordinary citizens (and the extent of such involvement), what is the difference between individual (**heroic individualistic**) vs. collective models? What does each model entail in terms of strengths and limitations?
- 4) **Social innovation in a context of "blurring boundaries":** social entrepreneurship and social innovation often take place at the border area between state and civil society or between the market and civil society. What are the implications of this situation in terms of isomorphic pressures and identity for social enterprises, advantages and drawbacks of partnerships and policy orientations? In the context of social innovation and public policies: What public policies have been found to be positively supportive of social innovation? What are the drivers and barriers for social innovation? How can different forms of social innovation be institutionalised (individual, organisational, cluster-based, etc.)?
- 5) **Management and governance models for social innovation:** What managerial practices facilitate organisations becoming innovative? Can a culture of innovation be established? Is the structure of governance related to social innovation, and if so, in what way?
- 6) **Social innovation related to sectors:** How does social innovation vary according to activity areas such as work integration, fair trade, culture, environmental services, welfare, and public service provision? Studies should not merely be descriptive but should address significant research questions arising from the literature.
- 7) **Measuring social innovation impact and performance:** This may be considered both in terms of economic dimensions (growth/productivity/efficiency) and in terms of social dimensions (well-being and social cohesion). Measurement issues need to reflect on the transactions costs involved, the purposes of measurement, and the extent to which the objectives for measurement systems fit with the contextual requirements that the organisation faces (e.g. the demands of public sector contracting). Finally, research could offer critical and developmental perspectives on current practices (social audit, social return on investment, etc.).
- 8) **Stakeholder involvement and social innovation:** research on perspectives on social innovation that give priority to stakeholder involvement is welcome. In particular, research on the following topics - all of which require high-quality, solid research to illuminate this dimension of the field - is of clear interest: user-driven social innovation (which has already received considerable research interest); volunteer involvement (which is a potentially interesting area); and the involvement of stakeholders (for example through systems of co-production and co-governance). Also questions and reflections on gender, generation, social and cultural capital for stakeholder involvement and its implications for social innovation are relevant.

- 9) **Resources: financial institutions and instruments for social innovation.** There is a huge interest and substantial progress in certain countries in moving towards developing effective capital markets for social enterprises, improving the latter's access to mainstream capital, and exploring innovative financial instruments. There is also considerable experience of developing relevant institutions for community finance (e.g. community development financial initiatives), but research is required on how innovative such developments are, and on factors which influence social innovation.
- 10) **Scaling up and learning models of social innovation.** Research could focus on the issue of overcoming initial financial, regulatory, and recognition barriers for the development of social innovation, as well as identifying and exploiting incentives for social innovation and the actors, organisations and networks associated with it; in addition to actors, organisations and networks, processes of partnerships and collaboration can facilitate scaling-up processes (via internet tools or otherwise); other models warranting research include social franchising, replication of business models, systems of innovation diffusion, etc. Learning outcomes and learning arenas and how these are related to social entrepreneurship and different models of social innovation are also relevant.

The above list of themes is not exhaustive. Submissions that analyse other topical issues are also welcome.

3. Submission and selection of abstracts

Format of abstracts:

- All abstracts should be written in English and prepared in A4 MS Word format (Arial, size 12, single-spaced).
- Abstracts should be no more than 500 words in length (excluding bibliography).
- Authors' full name, title, address, organisation and e-mail address should be included with the abstract. See form on page 7 for a submission template.
- The conference welcomes PhD students. In addition to the requested submission information, they should specify a thesis title and their main research question.
- A maximum of two abstracts per author will be accepted.
- Only email submission is accepted. Please make sure that you include the following subject line structure: Abstract EMES 2011 Theme Number Author's last name (e.g. *Abstract EMES 2011 Theme 3 Rijpens*).

Selection of abstracts:

All papers will be refereed by members of the Scientific Committee on the basis of the abstract submitted.

Most papers will be presented in parallel workshops. Additionally, **a special session hosted by the EMES PhD Student Network** (created after the 1st EMES PhD Summer School) will be organised during the conference. This special session is open to all PhD students, and will include some parallel discussions (led by EMES members) with the aim of networking, sharing ideas, and interacting with professors and senior researchers.

PhD students may present their papers in the main workshops, but they will have the alternative option of presenting them in special PhD paper sessions if they feel their research ideas and findings are at an early stage of development. PhD students should indicate their preferences when they submit an abstract. The referees will make the final decision as to whether a paper is accepted and in which type of workshop it is to be presented.



Those authors invited to participate will have to submit their final, complete article by **27 May 2011**. All authors must formally register for the conference.

Financial support: a certain number of registration subsidies will be available for researchers from non-OECD countries and PhD students whose papers have been accepted. Should you be interested in applying for a registration subsidy, please indicate so at the time of submitting your abstract.

4. Important dates

28 January 2011	Deadline for abstracts' submission
7 March 2011	Notification of acceptance/rejection to authors
27 May 2011	Deadline for final papers' submission
17 June 2011	Deadline for conference registration
4 July 2011	Conference starts

5. Conference's scientific and organising committees

Scientific committee:

- **Linda Lundgård Andersen**, CSE, Roskilde University, Denmark (**Co-chair**)
- **Roger Spear**, The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom (**Co-chair**)
- **Carlo Borzaga**, University of Trento, Italy
- **Kam-Tong Chan**, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR, China
- **Jacques Defourny**, University of Liege, Belgium
- **Lars Hulgård**, Roskilde University, Denmark
- **Yu-Yuan Kuan**, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan
- **Jean-Louis Laville**, CNAM/LISE, France
- **Alex Nicholls**, Oxford University, United Kingdom
- **Marilia Veronese**, Unisinos, Brazil
- **Isabel Vidal**, University of Barcelona, Spain
- **Annette Zimmer**, University of Münster, Germany

Organising committee:

- **Rocío Nogales**, EMES European Research Network
- **Lise Bisballe**, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, Roskilde University, Denmark

6. Conference venue

The conference will take place at the campus of Roskilde University (*Roskilde Universitet* in Danish), also known as RUC, which is 30 km away from Copenhagen (Denmark). More details about precise room location will be provided later.

Limited on-campus accommodation will be available at a residence hall (*Kollegium*) within walking distance of the event venue. Moreover, a list of hotels in Roskilde and Copenhagen will be made available for those participants interested. A "PhD solidarity accommodation" option will be made available for PhD students, thanks to the cooperation of Denmark-based PhD students. Please let us know if you are interested in this option.



7. The organisers

The conference is hosted by the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE) at Roskilde University, and organised by the EMES European Research Network (EMES). It aims to gather scholars from all regions of the world - both senior and early-stage researchers - who are engaged in research on social innovation and social entrepreneurship, in advanced as well as in developing and transition countries.

The EMES European Research Network - Created in 1996, the EMES European Research Network has developed into a leading research network, focused on the study of social enterprises and third sector organisations. On the basis of a large European research project carried out over five years, the Network organised the 1st EMES International Conference, titled *The Social Enterprise. A comparative perspective*, at the University of Trento in 2001. This event and the first EMES book, *The Emergence of Social Enterprise* (Routledge, 2001), launched the topic of "social enterprise" as a research theme on the European scene. Through various other books and publications, EMES researchers also succeeded in promoting a more widespread knowledge of the concept of social enterprise, both in Europe and outside Europe, and pinpointed new research themes that have been thoroughly investigated in recent years.

EMES promotes the development of innovative analytical frameworks on social enterprise among scholars engaged in third sector research through events and scientific seminars such as the scientific seminar hosted by the CSE of Roskilde University (Denmark) in 2007, the 2nd EMES International Conference in Trento (July 2009) or the European conferences co-organised with the International Society for Third Sector Research in 2005 and 2008. Through its research, publications, and events, EMES has played a major role in establishing social enterprise as a field of study, in the context of changing institutional configurations of the social and solidarity economy and civil society.

In addition, EMES has organised two successful PhD Summer Schools, namely the 1st EMES PhD Summer School (July 2008) in Corsica, France, and the 2nd EMES PhD Summer School (July 2010) in Roskilde, Denmark. As a founding member of the University Network for Social Entrepreneurship, EMES is also committed to strengthening an emerging community of researchers across the world via scientific publications, syllabi and other course materials as well as an on-line platform for exchanges. EMES has been publishing the results of its research in the form of seminal books and a Working Papers series. See www.emes.net for more information or to download Working Papers and other EMES publications.

The Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (*Center for Socialt Entreprenørskab*, or CSE) - Founded in 2007, the CSE is based in the Department of Psychology and Educational Studies at Roskilde University Centre, near Copenhagen.

The Centre carries out education and research activities in the area of social entrepreneurship, social enterprise, welfare studies and civil society. It has pioneered Europe's first Masters in Social Entrepreneurship, with 38 mature students from the public and third sector. Its international team of academics supports the two-year, part-time programme of studies. CSE conducts research, most recently on learning and welfare-to-work policies in Denmark, supports capacity building and has established an extensive research programme for doctoral students. The Centre is directed by Linda Lundgård Andersen, an expert in social learning, and builds on the work of Lars Hulgård, a founding member of EMES and of the CINEFOGO-Network of Excellence, funded by the EU, Sixth Framework Programme. The Centre has links with the Co-operatives Research Unit (EMES founding member in the UK) and the University of East London as well as Lancastershire University, UK.

More information at www.ruc.dk/paes_en/cse



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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Article title:

Keywords (5 keywords maximum):

Related thematic line:

Abstract (500 words maximum, excluding references):

Main author:

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Contact address:

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(Include additional information about co-authors if there are any.)

Indicate if you are a non-OECD country researcher or a PhD student requesting a registration subsidy

For PhD students, please include your thesis overall title and main research question:

Please submit your abstract by 28 January 2011, by email only, at emesconf2011@emes.net indicating in the subject line: *Abstract EMES 2011 Theme Number Author's last name*. You will receive a confirmation upon receipt of your submission.