

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Sustainable Development

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Special Session Proposal

Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Social Business Venturing

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Abstract

The regional dimension critically influences the dynamics of new social business formation. However, the reasons for variations in social enterprise rates among different regions remain underexplored. The entrepreneurial ecosystems (EE) framework facilitates an understanding of the connections between entrepreneurial activities and their regional context. This is instrumental in identifying and unpacking the array of stakeholders crucial to social endeavors, with a specific emphasis on recognizing the pivotal role played by resources and networks. To address this, this session aims to deepen insights into how regional dimensions influence and shape social enterprises' activities and business models. We propose to achieve this by discussing the different EE elements and mechanisms that can directly or indirectly affect the business models of social enterprises. Key focus areas include governance and coordination mechanisms within EEs, including resource orchestration and the support structures available to social enterprises. We welcome conceptual and empirical work that seeks to contribute to a solid understanding of EEs and their pivotal role in building more sustainable and resilient socially impactful ventures. Specific interest is paid to aspects of EEs that impact social enterprise development differently or more than commercial venturing.

² Primary Convener

