

4. Overcoming Barriers to Entrepreneurship and SME Development

Barriers to entrepreneurship and SME development come in many forms. The acceptance of entrepreneurship as a cultural phenomenon requires attitudinal change on the part of educators, policymakers, and the general public. The provision of financial and moral support to anything but mainstream “blue chip” business ventures continues to be problematic. These barriers include: poor access to banking and credit facilities, lack of trust by the local community, poor level of personal contacts and networks locally, difficulty in accessing business information, difficulty with business permits policy, poor business locations (due to low rent, etc), small business size, and limited opportunity to grow.

There is, however, a plethora of research policy initiatives and programs designed to mitigate against these barriers and this tract seeks to highlight successful interventions as well as lessons learned.

The Call for Papers for this track welcomes not only academic papers, but also case studies, and practitioners and policy oriented papers and workshops.

- Academic paper abstracts should clearly state the aim of the study, methods used, results obtained and conclusions reached for SMEs and entrepreneurship as well as implications for policy or program development. Abstracts should include title of paper, name(s) of author(s), affiliation, and full contact details.
- Workshop and case study proposals should clearly link to the themes of the conference. Proposal abstracts must include: topic, name of workshop leader (with full contact details), names of workshop panellists, and a brief description of what the workshop will cover.