

12. SME Management and Growth

Business retention and expansion is the current mantra of community economic development professionals. This approach has replaced new business start up and business recruitment as the priority in the mosaic of community economic development initiatives. Various initiatives including community based surveys, market expansion and export subsidies, and management development programs strive to stabilize the existing business infrastructure.

We encourage researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to present their ideas and concepts on the theoretical foundation, policy frameworks, and supportive programs that confirm or challenge the priority given to this strategy.

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.