

2. The Policy and Regulatory Environment, and the Impact of SME/entrepreneurship Policies and Programs

All levels of governments, corporations, and educational institutions have developed policies intended to enhance entrepreneurial thinking and stimulate the establishment and growth of small and medium enterprise. This is in recognition of the positive contribution SMEs and entrepreneurship can make to economic and social development.

These policies are intended to lead to initiatives designed to enhance economic and individual prosperity, employment growth, and innovation in developed economies and economic and social regeneration in developing states. Whether or not this is the case rests on a number of factors. This track seeks to examine the effects of policy interventions on SMEs and entrepreneurship. It is particularly interested in papers that challenge conventional wisdom and advance the vital role that policy plays to link research to results.

The cause and effect relations between research and policy is not yet clear nor is the effectiveness of the methodologies and timing of evaluation and it is challenging to understand the effects of public policy on entrepreneurship and SMEs worldwide.

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.