

## 5. Regional and Rural Entrepreneurship

One of the recurrent themes in the development of research and practice in the field of entrepreneurship is the potential contribution that entrepreneurs and SMEs make to economic development, and the sustainability of rural living. This particular track is concerned with the development of entrepreneurship at the regional level, focusing particularly on the challenges and opportunities for developing entrepreneurship in rural environments. There is particular interest in community based and community owned solutions to maintaining economic and social vibrancy. Research, policies or programs which combine individual or collective initiatives using government agencies such as education, enterprise and economic development as well as local organizations and service providers is sought in this tract. A comparative discussion relative to urban and rural problems and solutions would fit well in this tract. In this regard, and in view of the international scope of the conference, it is important that authors address this point in their papers by explaining the key characteristics of the rural or regional environment(s) to which their paper applies.

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.