

7. Small Business Support Services

Mentoring, small business counseling and consulting, peer support circles, professional development programs, university and college extension services have all contributed to the plethora of small business support services. This is being augmented by international certifications for small business interveners. There is, however, a fragmented and disconnected evaluation on the contributions that such intervention makes to the development of an entrepreneurial culture or increased start up, maintenance and/or growth of SME's.

Papers focusing on factors affecting the stability, dynamics, success or failure of various supporting networks for entrepreneurs and SMEs are welcomed in linking current views and developing them further. Contributions in the area of strategic planning, managerial skill development or organizational implications of a variety of supporting networks would contribute to the vibrancy of this tract

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.