

The Eleventh Workshop on  
Social Capital and Development Trends in the  
Swedish and Japanese Countryside with special  
subtheme:  
Social Entrepreneurship for development of non-  
metropolitan and rural areas.

21<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2014, Östersund, Sweden  
(With arrival 19<sup>th</sup> August and pre-workshop excursion 20<sup>th</sup> August)

## Call for Papers

Title and Abstract Submission Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014  
Finished Papers Submission Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

The objective of the workshop is to discuss common topics of non-metropolitan and rural regions and urban-rural interaction in Sweden and Japan, with the concepts of social capital and social entrepreneurship as common denominators. This workshop is the eleventh workshop with this theme.

From the 1990s the development in information and communication technology has exploded and has together with the rapid globalization of industrial economy, the new international workforce division, and the changing roles of nation states had major impact on the local society. Such rapid and radical changes urge reflection on institutionalized and taken-for-granted views on what, why, how, things are done and organised in society and who to take responsibility for common needs. One challenge in the twenty-first century will be how established institutional structures in local economies could be adapted to the societal changes. The increased competition between regions has together with the more globalised economy urged a need for restructuring in order to achieve sufficient level of innovativeness and competitiveness in different regions.

Encouraging entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship and new business creation are often emphasized as a means to create local development and growth in the global economy. In times of rapid social changes the urge for rethinking entrepreneurship in a broader sense have become an issue to better approach the challenge about the division between private and public responsibilities for individual and common necessities in local communities. As an answer to these challenges a broadened approach to the concept of entrepreneurship has emerged, related not only to economic value creation but also to human, cultural and social value creation.

The notion of cooperation and alliances between regional public, private and volunteer actors has become strategies to meet up with the increasing global competition between regions which affect local welfare and wellbeing and will occur in different contexts and on various levels in society. A collective approach to the entrepreneurship concept, such as social (or societal) entrepreneurship, is not new but has become a more useful concept in times of national, regional and local renewal processes.

Social (societal) entrepreneurship is a powerful means to stimulate innovative and creative actions with the purpose to develop and organize functions of advantage to society. Much of the value of research on social (societal) entrepreneurship lies in the non-restricted and innovative manner in which the social entrepreneurs pursue their goals, which allows us to consider several pressing issues in social science without getting “locked in” a certain institutional setting. The social (societal) entrepreneur is a person or group of persons that are involved in common causes at the local community. The range of issues that is possible to address with societal entrepreneurship is almost limitless and the workshop aims to address several fields in the research of social entrepreneurship and the connection to social capital and rural development.

Topics of interest in this workshop include (but are not limited to):

- Social entrepreneurship and its development potential
- Social capital in business life, government and civil society
- Policies for social entrepreneurship in non-metropolitan and rural development
- Community governance and partnerships for social entrepreneurship
- Social capital and social entrepreneurship
- Local engagement, social economy and the third sector
- Sustainable management of environmental, cultural, economic, social resources
- Tourism’s role in rural development
- Social innovation in rural areas.
- Climate changes’ threats and opportunities for the countryside
- Urban-rural interaction

Most of these topics have relevance for both rural and urban areas, and we in particular welcome contributions that can illuminate any interdependence and connections between the urban and rural with point of departure in one of these suggested topics or some other appropriate theme.

## PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is open for participants from universities, research institutes, government, practitioners, developers, and for people being interested in social entrepreneurship, rural development, urban-rural relations and social capital.

## VENUE

The Östersund Campus of the Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden.

## ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should contain maximum 300 words, be written in English and in MS Word. The abstracts should include title, author(s), affiliation, complete address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send your abstracts to [yvonne.vonfriedrichs@miun.se](mailto:yvonne.vonfriedrichs@miun.se) and [katarina.blaman@jibs.hj.se](mailto:katarina.blaman@jibs.hj.se)

## PUBLICATION

Selected papers from the workshop will be published as proceedings.

## IMPORTANT DATES

1<sup>st</sup> April: Deadline for abstract submission  
30<sup>th</sup> April: Information on acceptance of abstracts  
15<sup>th</sup> June: Deadline for submission of finished papers  
20<sup>th</sup> August: Pre-workshop excursion  
21<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>th</sup> August: Workshop

## COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Travel costs to and from Åre/Östersund Airport are paid by the participants. Meals and accommodation for the Japanese participants, during the period 19-22 August, are covered by the organizers. Other participants' costs are paid by the participants themselves.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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