

Regional Studies Association (RSA) Research Network on Citizen Entrepreneurship (RSARNCE) 5th Workshop

Citizen Entrepreneurship & Grand Challenges: Reflections on the RSARNCE Network's Activities, New Developments and Where Next?

**Friday 9th of June 2023 14.15 to 17.45 at Leuphana University in a hybrid
format**

A Short Report on the Proceedings of the Workshop

Introduction

The RSARNCE Workshop was held at Leuphana University, Luneburg, Germany on 9 June. This was our workshop organized in hybrid format and capturing the latest developments for our project. On this occasion we covered new developments centred round:

- 1) A review of our improved understanding of the concept of Citizen Entrepreneurship (CE) which represents an innovative, ecosystems approach to citizen engagement with key Sustainable Development Goal issues and the possible resolution of the problems facing societies and economies to achieve those goals through entrepreneurial means and processes.
- 2) Case studies developed by academic researchers at Leuphana University (a project partner) together with graduate students who were directly involved in the design, secondary and primary research work, critical analysis, and the subsequent presentation of key findings five different case studies from Germany. Due to client confidentiality reasons, we are unable to provide full details of these presentations in this report. Suffice it to state that they addressed issues related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially around climate change, inclusion, diversity, and social justice, the participation of citizens in the design of the underpinning research following Citizen Science principles.
- 3) The latest developments from one of our flagship projects based in India and presented by Banglanatakdotcom, a social enterprise partner.
- 4) A reconsideration of the underpinning research philosophy promoting CE and the various methods that can be applied to undertake research in this area, presented by Professor Ursula Weisenfeld (Leuphana University), Dr Leonie Elsing (Leuphana University) and Professor Jay Mitra (University of Essex, UK).
- 5) Three presentations from 3 new partners of our project, Dr Charlotte FELIX-FAURE, IDRAC Business School, Lyon, France; Professor Simon Taylor, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, who presented their work on two separate projects, one on Schools and Education, and the other on Access to Water in urban areas, in South Africa. The third presentation was made by Giles Tofield representing Diversity Essex, UK who spoke about a new project focusing on citizen engagement in and entrepreneurial outcomes for the Arts and Social Change based in Essex, UK.
- 6) A brief overview of the developments for our proposed research monograph on CE. We expect this monograph to be published by Palgrave under their 'Entrepreneurship

and Society' series. A proposal is in the final stages of preparation which would include entries from both the current and the new partners for this project.

About 30 people from five different countries (Germany, UK, France, India, South Africa), including academic researchers, graduate and research students, social enterprises and non-governmental organizations attended the workshop. We are delighted that as we come close to the end of the RSARNCE project we have attracted two new members one from France and the other from South Africa. Together with our partners in Germany, UK, Poland, and India, we are committed to continuing beyond the duration of the RSARNCE project through a variety of funding and stakeholding opportunities.

The workshop was co-chaired by Professor Ursula Weisenfeld and Professor Jay Mitra.

A short account of the proceedings is presented below.

Agenda Item	Who is Involved?	Scope	Notes
Welcome and Introductions	Sally Hardy, CEO/ Daniela Carl Deputy CEO, Regional Studies Association (RSA) Welcome to the University of Luneburg: Prof. Ursula Weisenfeld Meet the RSARNCE Project Team	The Work of the RSA and the RSARNCE Project Brief introduction to the RSARNCE project and team	Ursula Weisenfeld welcomes everyone and introduces to the workshop. Daniela Carl presents current initiatives and activities of the Regional Studies Association
The RSARNCE Project and Citizen Engagement	RSARNCE Project Team. Led by Professor Weisenfeld	Reflections on Achievements, contributions to research on entrepreneurship and regional development: Objectives, Methods, Content and Outcomes	Ursula Weisenfeld and Jay Mitra talk about the network's projects in the past, reflect on the last three years of network activity and discuss the question "Why citizen entrepreneurship? Charlotte Felix-Faure asks about the role of corporate social responsibility in citizen entrepreneurship and the audience asks about research gaps and possible research topics.
Roundtable Discussion on RSARNCE and CE around the World	Dr Charlotte FELIX-FAURE, IDRAC Business School, Lyon, France; Professor Simon Taylor, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa; Dr Madhura Dutta, Banglanatak dot com, India	Developments across the World. New networks, new insights	The international speakers – Madhura Dutta, Simon Taylor, Giles Tofield and Charlotte Felix-Faure - present their projects, report on current activities and their approach to supporting and enabling citizen entrepreneurship. Banglanatak dot com is a social enterprise working

	Led by Professor Jay Mitra, University of Essex, UK		against marginalization, CREATE fosters entrepreneurship in South Africa, and the Cultural Engine works as an interface between initiatives and projects and the administrative and governmental level.
New Research on CE	Research by academic staff and students. Led by Dr Leonie Eising and Clara Scheve, Luneburg University, Germany	Case-study based research outcomes	The student groups present their own and their researched citizen entrepreneurship case studies. While the previous programme point was more about the enabler perspective, the presentation now conveys the perspective from citizen entrepreneurship projects.
Conclusions, Where Next? and Close of Workshop: RSARNCE Project Team			

Leonie Eising and Jay Mitra
June 2023
