How to operationalize and study the Citizen Entrepreneurship phenomenon

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Workshop #2, 26 May 2021, Engaging Citizens in Research: Design, Methods and Data
Citizen Entrepreneurship

- Has roots in a broad view of entrepreneurship (not only enterprises)
- Concentrates on collective benefits (common good) and efforts (hybrid organizational solutions)
- Based on enterprising and innovative **people and communities**, who are purpose- or idea-driven and direct their interest towards collective needs through new activities
- Based very often of modest improvements
- Emerges from the crisis of the classical public and private sector


Workshop #2, 26 May 2021, Engaging Citizens in Research: Design, Methods and Data
Decomposing of our understanding of CE

1. Citizen engagement (sense of common good within a community – trust, reciprocity, cognitive proximity, social capital)

2. Collective efficacy (as an element of territorially embedded norms and rules within a community)

3. Citizen capabilities as a desired effect (as at least one of perceived benefits)

4. Hybridity perceived as an added value (sense of value derived from combinatorial approach)

Our understanding of CE – criteria / questions to ask

1. Citizen engagement
   1.1: physical concentration - people begin to gather around a common challenge/challenges
   1.2: emerging community - people sometimes express it explicitly
   1.3: strong established community - there is a common sense of belonging

2. Collective efficacy
   2.1: there are clear agreements on how and by whom the resource is used
   2.2: 2.1. + these agreements are made collectively
   2.3: 2.1. + 2.2. + the group itself manages and maintains the common good

3. Citizen capabilities
   3.1: first movers emerge and begin advocating for urban commons
   3.2: 3.1 + commitment attracts new citizens who were not initiators but see „it might work”
   3.3: 3.1. + 3.2. + the regular members of the community are capable to take actions; ideas for new activities come not only from the leaders; some of the activities bring measurable benefits in the form of new employment, products or services
4. Hybridity

- **4.1:** the action is „mono-sectoral“ – dominated by either the public or non-governmental sector
- **4.2:** cooperation between two or three sectors (according to the triple helix model) is the norm
- **4.3:** cooperation between three or more sectors (according to the quadruple / quintuple helix model) is the norm; the involvement of entrepreneurs is clearly noticeable

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How to find a research method?

We need to choose the procedure that is most suitable with respect to the research question.

Methodological choices concern:
- A research strategy
- A method to suit theory and objectives
- Informants and cases
- A technique of collecting data
Qualitative research

**Aim:** develop concepts that enhance the understanding of social phenomena in natural settings, with emphasis on the meanings, experiences and views of all participants.

**Qualitative research methods:**
- Ethnographic methods
- Grounded theory
- Phenomenology
- Discourse analysis
- Case study
Data collection – tools

- Case study
- Personal experience and life stories
- Surveys
- Diaries
- In-depth interviews
- Observational, historical, interactional and visual texts
- Videos
- Studies of archival (secondary) data
- Interactive workshops
Why we ask YOU?

New trend of Participatory action research (PAR) – as an approach that values participation and action by members of communities affected by that research.

- Addressing research questions and problems that are important for those who participate (practitioners as co-researchers)
- Collaborative research and collective inquiry (research results as commons)
- Based on experiences
- Focused on social change