If not for profit, for what and how?

Building interdisciplinary and integrated knowledge on social entrepreneurship and social enterprise

The project aims to capture and theorize the specific features of social enterprises, at the crossroads between market, state and civil society. Despite growing research in this field, much remains to be investigated and theorized concerning why and how entrepreneurs identify opportunities for social innovation and exploit them through a not-for-profit scheme (If not for profit, for what?). Moreover, several research gaps can be identified as to how social enterprises are managed and how their models are diffused (how?).

Through building in-depth and interdisciplinary knowledge on social enterprise and through mobilizing and questioning in a joint effort a range of theoretical frameworks used by the partners, the proposal aims to enrich extant paradigms on such central concepts as the firm and the entrepreneurial process. Documenting the role and functioning of social enterprises may indeed contribute to the broader research on "organizational diversity" in our economies.

Belgian Partners

Université de Liège
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Université Catholique de Louvain
Université Libre de Bruxelles

International Partners

Georgia State University
EURICSE, University of Trento
University of Minnesota
Copenhagen Business School

belspo

Interuniversity Attraction Poles (IAP)
Phase VII - 2012-2017

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WP1 | Social innovation & social opportunities

- Social innovation
- Social opportunities

WP2 | Financing social enterprises

- Cost of equity
- Rationality of financing-mix
- Social banking
- Subsidies and performance

WP3 | Employment & HRM

- Quality of jobs and performance
- Perceptions about volunteers
- Paid and voluntary employees
- Gender issues

WP6

Integration of findings and theoretical contributions

WP4 | Governance

- Multistakeholder boards
- Beneficiaries' participation

WP5 | SE models & institutionalization

- Institutionalization processes
- Social enterprise models