

Röster från olika platser

Vi ställde två frågor till några internationella kontakter:

- 1) What is the condition for social entrepreneurship in your region?
- 2) What is the most important question for you right now in your work / as a social entrepreneur?

Edward Andersson, London

- 1) What is the condition for social entrepreneurship in your region?

The economic crisis is both an opportunity and a threat to social entrepreneurship in the UK. On one hand it reduces the funding available to support innovation and has also led to the abolishment of many staff posts and organisations that supported innovation. On the other hand the scale of the economic crisis has forced the hand of some sceptical managers who have no choice but to do things differently. Many of the most interesting and innovative participation and co-production projects have arisen from severe crises that rocked the established system to the core. In short the crisis is positive for social entrepreneurship which requires little initial investment, or which leads to reduced costs. However it places strains on social entrepreneurship which requires significant upfront investment and where benefits accrue over long time or to the wider population. There increased competition for the remaining funders who support long term social entrepreneurship and a difficult choice has often to be made between supporting new ideas or continuing with existing projects. The attitude towards social entrepreneurship has improved, with increased willingness to take risk and innovate; however much remains to be done.



- 2) What is the most important question for you right now in your work / as a social entrepreneur?

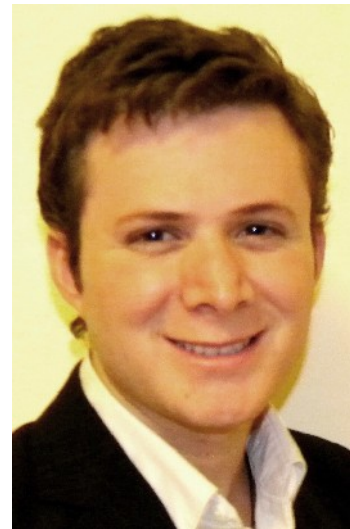
The degree to which government is genuinely interested in handing over real power and control to local citizens, service users and

communities. If social entrepreneurship is to be more than a fringe phenomenon we need to devolve power closer to citizens, both in terms of decision making but also control over resources and funding.

Edward Andersson
Deputy Director - Involve
<http://www.involve.org.uk/>

Pablo Acuña, Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a country with a very strong welfare State, this have helped to create a interesting social entrepreneurship culture, much more related to a conventional social entrepreneurs such as NGO's and foundations that work in topics on environment, poverty, peace, childhood and similar. But right now the principal question for me is how to increase knowledge about new concepts of entrepreneurship such as "social businesses" and "corporate social entrepreneurship", themes a little bit known but which have begun to take hold in the last years in the national market and in which the government must put more effort into promoting them.



Pablo Acuña
Consultant and Projects Developer
Entrepreneur from Costa Rica



Jayne Jönsson, Filippinerna

Living in Sweden with Asian background, notwithstanding the challenges, brings the best of two worlds so to speak. Studying SE and my attempt to run a small business in Sweden in cooperation with small producers in the Philippines provide an insight on the potential and challenges within SE.

SE in the Philippines, being an organised initiative, shows poverty alleviation potential through capacity-building and self-help activities. Therefore SE should be looked at more closely to help curb the mass deployment of the Philippines' primary commodity - human labour. Creating better opportunities at home would mean fewer children growing-up without a parent (or both parents), and more young talents to help re-build the country.

Moreover, less human labour export would mean less susceptibility to atrocities committed against migrant workers who often times do not receive enough protection; and increased self-esteem as individuals and Filipinos.

Jayne Jönsson
www.maddiekay.se/

Eli Malinsky, Toronto

Social entrepreneurship is booming in Toronto, Canada, as an increasing number of people explore the possibilities for blending a social mission with a stable business model. That said, it's still a period of struggle as these individuals work to explore what's possible with fairly limited institutional supports.



The most important question is how to really accelerate early-stage social entrepreneurship so that these new enterprises have their best possible chance of success.

Eli Malinsky, Director of Programs and Partnerships at the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) i Toronto.

<http://socialinnovation.ca/>

Chiara Camponeschi, Rom/Toronto



What is the condition for social entrepreneurship in your region?

I spend my time between Rome, Italy, and Toronto, Canada. The two regions could not be more different! Toronto is a city that continues to be celebrated for its leadership in both social innovation and social entrepreneurship, and for this reason it is a place that never ceases to inspire. Over the years, as the interest in dynamics of collaboration and innovation has grown, I have witnessed a city-wide willingness to invest in infrastructures that support the creative capacity of actors to work collaboratively and innovatively to address some of the complex issues that affect our city and the world at large. Toronto is also a diverse city rich with incredible local communities - the networks they form, and the inventive avenues of collaboration they create, has done a lot to strengthen the capacity of grassroots groups to make their voice heard and play a bigger role in the decision-making processes

that affect their environment. Italy, on the other hand, continues to be plagued by a lack of serious political leadership and by its recurring economic problems. The Italian civil society has done much of the years to counteract these pervasive issues, and in the social economy, the co-op and fair trade movements are particularly strong. However, for the most part, Italy still lacks supportive infrastructures and even a shared language around 'social change.' This is slowly starting to change thanks to the determination and vision of many citizen-led groups who are stepping in to make matters into their hands. I am humbled and impressed by the work that so many determined communities are spearheading in Rome and beyond. The enormous cultural, social, political and financial obstacles they face everyday are a strong sign that there is a high need for alternative models of production and consumption, and I am really happy to see so many initiatives starting up to facilitate this change.

What is the most important question for you right now in your work / as a social entrepreneur?

Where social entrepreneurship and social innovation are already at an 'advanced' stage, the most important question for me is making sure that these initiatives remain rooted in a 'theory of change' that is not divorced by a well-rounded understanding of politics and economics. It is important for me that the efforts of community innovators is not co-opted by top-down institutions, and that these projects remain connected to the communities they serve and therefore attuned to their needs. Experimenting with social enterprise models that are not strictly capitalist, like co-ops and sharing networks, is also another pressing concern. Where social entrepreneurship and innovation remain at an early stage, it is important for me to support the work of community pioneers and help them amplify their reach and impact. In Italy especially, youth continue to be affected by issues of (dis)empowerment and economic inequality, and they are not given an equal chance to demonstrate their leadership early enough. The process of becoming established is so slow that people in the age of 35-40 are still considered 'youth', while in reality the country has a vast, untapped pool of talent that it could be supporting much earlier. Simultaneously, I am concerned with models of collaboration, and try to pay special attention to the unfolding dynamics of multiculturalism in a country that is still learning how to be inclusive and intercultural.

Chiara Camponeschi
<http://www.enablingcity.com/>