

B.C.- Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy (BALTA)

Annex A – Project C6-2007

A. Project Title

From Social Economy to Solidarity Economy: Changing Perspectives in a Volatile World (Phase Two)

B. Brief description of project and project objectives, outputs and proposed outcomes

Phase one of this project contrasted the Pearse conceptual formulation of the social economy with an alternative formulation called the solidarity economy. This research will document two cases, one from Chicago and another from Montreal, based on existing knowledge, and analyze each using the two alternate conceptualizations defined in phase one. The case write-ups for purpose of analysis will start in June.

RESO is a five neighbourhood community economic development corporation in S.W. Montreal. It has a 20 year history and multi-level impacts, among which fostering social enterprise is a notable component. The second case is an emerging one: the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance (CMR) led by Dan Swinney, director of the Centre for Labour and Community Research and a BALTA collaborator. Two themes are of particular interest:

- CMR's collaboration with and targeting of the city's poorest neighbourhood as a cornerstone of the CMR's strategy; and
- The coalition itself, its members, its understanding of its mission and goals, and the framework within which it was organized.

The analysis of each case will become the subject of an initial discussion regarding the possible implications for policy and practice. It is expected that the project will conclude in late August. The result, if accepted, will be presented at the CIRIEC conference in October.

Objectives

1. To analyze the cases through the lens of the social economy and the solidarity economy conceptual frameworks introduced in phase 1.
2. To present the analysis and discuss the implications of each conceptualization for practice and policy.

Outputs

1. A paper for debate in BALTA, the Canadian Social Economy Hub, and with a variety of networks in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.
2. Academic and Practitioner publication products.
3. A paper for the International Conference of CIRIEC in October 08 (acceptance will be known by April).

Outcomes

1. The discussion and debate engendered by this work will further provoke clarification of various perspectives existing in the field.
2. It will provide an important base for discussion about the relationship of territorial approaches and function or enterprise specific approaches
3. The practitioner and policy implications of cutting the conceptual cloth differently will contribute to a critical discussion of the assumptions and strategies adopted by actors in the social economy.

C. Purpose and significance of the study, including congruence of the proposed research with the over-all strategic research objectives identified for the SERC and BALTA

Based on the paper generated in phase one, which contrasted current conceptualizations of the social economy (Pearce and Restakis) with an evolving concept of a solidarity economy, this second phase further analyzes both through the lens of the Chicago and Montreal cases.

Exploring several key questions will be facilitated through this case based analysis of the main conceptual frameworks.

1. Given the respective domains of action, to what extent does each framework explain, or not, the scope of actions undertaken, the social processes leveraged (e.g. reciprocity) and results being achieved?
2. To what extent is the mix of functions, projects and enterprises undertaken encompassed by each of the two frameworks?
3. What do the findings suggest with respect to what the future role and relevance of the social economy might be, given the basic assumptions embedded in each framework?

As indicated in the phase one project, this research will also assist further clarifying the relationship between territorial and enterprise based approaches.

D. Will this project be led and managed by a SERC member or members or will it require a request for proposals?

The project will be co-led by Mike Lewis and Dan Swinney.

E. Lead researchers

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F. Names of other researchers and organizations involved (when known)

No other researchers are directly involved. However, Nancy Neamtan and Margie Mendell, both BALTA collaborators, will be consulted with respect to the RESO case write-up.

G. Will the project involve hiring one or more student researchers? Will they need to be recruited or have they already been identified?

No students will be hired.

H. Brief description of project roles and responsibilities for project participants (lead researcher, other researchers, student researchers, partner organizations).

Dan Swinney will provide the case presentation of Chicago. Mike Lewis will provide the case presentation of RESO. The analysis will be jointly undertaken. Mike will be responsible for the final writing with Dan taking on a critique/feedback role as the paper evolves.

I. Indicative Budget

Category	Requested of BALTA	Other Contributions
Student salaries & benefits		
Researcher Release Time	4 days of salary replacement time already budgeted for Mike Lewis will be allocated to this project.	Mike Lewis – In-kind CCCR - 3 days = \$1,500 Dan Swinney – In-kind CCLR = \$1,000
Research Support Costs		
Knowledge Dissemination		CIRIEC conference – Oct – In-kind CCCR (Mike’s time) = \$750 In-kind CCLR (Dan’s time) = \$750
Travel	Travel to CIRIEC conference will be covered by BALTA as Mike & Dan will be attending the BALTA colloquium at the same time	
TOTALS	\$0 + replacement time and travel already budgeted	\$4,000