

# Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Rural Development: Some Key Themes

Professor David Smallbone  
Small Business Research Centre  
Kingston University  
Kingston upon Thames, kt2 7lb

# INTRODUCTION

- Although innovation policy is typically urban oriented , not all innovations take place in cities.
- So promoting innovation in rural areas is not just about strengthening rural economies but it also recognises that innovations in rural areas can be of benefit outside them.

# Key themes

- innovation and entrepreneurship are essential to the competitiveness of businesses and regions
- a broadly based view of innovation that includes incremental as well as radical innovation is most appropriate in a rural context. It is also necessary to apply the concept of innovation to traditional rural sectors, such as land-based industries, tourism and crafts.

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# Key themes

- innovation in SMEs depend on efficient and appropriate innovation systems as well as on the creativity and drive of entrepreneurs
- The characteristics of rural regions present challenges to successful innovation but also opportunities.
- In certain circumstances social enterprises can provide innovative solutions to the decline of public services in rural areas,

# Key themes

- Although raising the level of innovation in rural areas is dependent upon a number of policy levers, higher education institutions play an important role