

Characteristics and Definition of Social Entrepreneurship

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Brouard and Larivet (2010) have analyzed several definitions of social entrepreneurship to identify primary and secondary characteristics and to present a definition from those characteristics.

Characteristics

Primary characteristics of Social entrepreneurship (SE_SHIP) are:

- (C1) SE_SHIP represents a variety of activities and processes
- (C2) SE_SHIP wants to create and sustain social value
- (C3) SE_SHIP encourage more entrepreneurial approaches for social use
- (C4) SE_SHIP displays various degree of innovation and change
- (C5) SE_SHIP is constrained by the external environment

Secondary characteristics of Social entrepreneurship (SE_SHIP) are:

- (C6) SE_SHIP may have various degree of positive social transformation
- (C7) SE_SHIP may take advantage of new opportunities
- (C8) SE_SHIP may use business concepts, principles, models and tools
- (C9) SE_SHIP may be constrained by relative resource poverty
- (C10) SE_SHIP may resolve social market failures
- (C11) SE_SHIP may invested the profit in the activity of venture itself rather than returned to investors
- (C12) SE_SHIP may take a wide variety of legal form
- (C13) SE_SHIP may be achieved by creating a new business

Definition

Building upon these characteristics,

Social entrepreneurship is a concept which represents a variety of activities and processes to create and sustain social value by using more entrepreneurial and innovative approaches and constrained by the external environment.

More information in:

Brouard, F., Larivet, S. (2010). «Essay of clarifications and definitions of the related concepts of Social Enterprise, Social Entrepreneur and Social Entrepreneurship», in Fayolle, A. and Matlay, H. (Ed.) *Handbook of Research in Social Entrepreneurship*, Chetelham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 352p. (Chapter 3 - p.29-56)