

Abridged version of Project Plan: Research Project to inform the APPG Inclusive Entrepreneurship Inquiry ‘Road to Wonder’

Introduction

Innovate UK has agreed to sponsor a Research Project which has now been commissioned and is a collaboration with Innovation Caucus and CIMR Birkbeck University of London. The Secretariat will provide Project Lead (Universal Inclusion), alongside Helen Lawton Smith from Birkbeck CIMR as Lead Researcher (supported by the various research, practitioner, policy makers and tiers within the project implementation).

This project builds on earlier research in particular the Innovate UK project undertaken by the Innovation Caucus (2019) and Lawton Smith’s subsequent study funded by the Regional Studies Association (2020-2021), *Addressing regional inequalities in innovation opportunities for BAME and disabled groups*. Both projects provided excellent evidence and insights. They also have mapped the landscape of support for disabled entrepreneurs and innovators. We now know much more about the number and kinds of organisations that have an interest in overcoming barriers to inclusive innovation.

Research that underpins this project includes published work by co-applicants (Rolle, Kisato, Rock and Winstanley 2020) and Seyyide and Lawton Smith (2022)¹. Both have highlighted a growing academic and grey literature on innovation, entrepreneurship and disability. For example, Winstanley’s paper highlighted the specific challenges faced by people with disabilities in becoming entrepreneurs. Seyyide and Lawton Smith’s report provided a detailed analysis of the geography of networks that support BAME and Disabled entrepreneurs and to position the analysis within the context of UK and international policy agenda and actions. Both, however, drew attention to the need to update the literature of both kinds of publication in the light of further studies.

The proposed study, therefore, will examine the traditional the who, the what, the why, the where and the when. It will provide a strong evidence base relating to issues relating to barriers to innovation and enterprise faced by disabled people. It will also provide fresh insights into the nature and scope of innovation within this sector. From the evidence, the project will do four things.

¹ [ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP: ADDRESSING REGIONAL INEQUALITIES IN INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAME AND DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS \(bbk.ac.uk\)](https://www.bbk.ac.uk/research/engaged-scholarship-addressing-regional-inequalities-in-innovation-opportunities-for-bame-and-disabled-entrepreneurs)

Rolle, J., Kisato, J., Rock, P., & Winstanley, J. (2020). Inclusive entrepreneurship: A critical look at the inclusion of persons with disabilities. *International Journal of Business and Economic Development*, 8(02).
<https://www.ijbed.org/issues&iid=2>

A key theme in this project is to identify societal as well as economic value in supporting disabled people in being innovative entrepreneurs. It will also identify areas of policy that are not currently being covered and how they could operate at the regional level. It will provide recommendations on how actual and potential disabled entrepreneurs can be supported and upscaled thus contributing to inclusive economic growth. On this basis of what is found, a future study could usefully identify additional policy areas relating to intersectionality, health & wellbeing contribution to inclusive economic growth beyond turnover reducing the disability employment gap.

Preliminary Timescales, Outputs & Milestones

Phase	Milestone / output	Timescale
Inception	Secure commitment from Advisory Group and partners	October 2022
	Put in place contractual arrangements	September 2022
Phase 1	Literature review, focused on establishing the business case for UK parliamentarians	October 2022 to January 2023
Phase 2	Complete design draft survey	October 2022
	Finalise surveys (comprising generic questions and questions specific to innovators with disabilities)	October 2022
	Distribute surveys	December 2022
	Collate survey responses	January 2023
	Preliminary statistical analyses of survey data and report on Phase 2 findings.	January 2023 Detailed analysis February 2023
	Presentation slides to share interim findings with APPGIE board	Mid February 2023

Phase 3	Plan Phase 3 focus groups	October/November 2022
	Deliver Phase 3 focus groups	December 2022/January 2023
	Analysis of findings from Phase 3	January/February 2023
Phase 4	Final report & presentation slides (incorporating the findings from the Phase 2 survey work, Phase 3 findings from focus groups and recommendations for parliamentarians for future initiatives increased participation with people with disabilities.)	Mid March 2023
Phase 5	Dissemination	April 2023