CALL FOR PROPOSALS
CRSE policy report: Impact of self-employment on wellbeing

Overview

The CRSE has an opportunity for researchers to maximise the impact of their work and expertise by delivering a report designed to facilitate evidence-based policy making.

We are calling for proposals for a report topic that addresses key research questions that are relevant for policy and practice in relation to the impact of self-employment on wellbeing.

The aim of the report is to succinctly distil the background and relevance of the policy area by synthesising other academic, policy and grey literature on the topic.

The report should present the author's perspective on the problem, based on their review of evidence, and propose practical recommendations to facilitate the development of interventions and evidence based tools for policymaking.

The target audience of the report are policymakers and decision makers. As such, the report must be written in a professional and accessible style that can be used as a tool for public policy, and does not need to include research analysis or methodological procedures as is common in academic reports.

Theme of the report

This report will be published to coincide with National Freelancers Day in the UK, which celebrates the positive phenomenon of self-employment as well as the freedom and flexibility offered by independent work. For this reason, we are interested in proposals for topics that investigate what constitutes good work for the self-employed, and proposes practical solutions for how to enact quality work for the self-employed in a sustainable way.

We welcome submissions including, but not restricted to, those by interdisciplinary and/or international teams that present diverse perspectives or new ideas that address some of the key research questions that are relevant for policy and practice in this area. Ultimately, proposals by experts in the area with the potential to make the greatest impact on policy and/or practice will be preferred.

Some of the topics that we are interested in exploring include, but are not limited to:

- **Job-related attitudes** – the perceptions of security and intrinsic job quality, job strain and social relationships. How do these differ between the self-employed and employees?
- **The gig economy and work-life balance** – does the gig economy allow self-employed workers to achieve a better work-life balance? What opportunities do online platforms provide for flexible work? What are the dangers? What does this say for the rise in the number of people working in the gig economy? Is that a positive development?
- **Self-employment and work productivity** – what is the relationship between the psychosocial working conditions, work-life balance and work productivity when it comes to the self-employed?
- **Self-employment and job satisfaction** – do the self-employed exhibit greater levels of job satisfaction? Do they consider the time spent working purposeful? What are the factors that determine/impact their levels of job satisfaction?

This list is intended to be suggestive and so proposals do not necessarily need to cover these specific areas.

Process

Submission and selection:

- Authors are invited to submit their proposal on a specific topic/question that they wish to address relating to the overall theme, in accordance with the submission guidelines by 5:00pm (GMT) 03 January 2018.
- Please note that authors may be requested to participate in a telephone interview on 10 January 2018 if further information is required.
- Successful author(s) will be notified by 12 January 2018.

Review and publication:

- Each report will undergo a review by a panel consisting of a sub-committee of the CRSE Steering Committee. This process requires the author to submit a draft of the report for review one week prior to the meeting, as well as prepare a short presentation about the report to give at the meeting.
- The review meeting will take place in London on 19 February 2018, where the author will receive detailed feedback on their report from the panel of reviewers. Video conferencing will be used for authors who are not based in London.

- Authors will be given eight weeks to incorporate the feedback into the paper before submitting the competed version.

Outputs

Delivery of an industry/public-policy report accessible to the general public and policymakers.

Report guidelines:

- The report must be written in accordance with the report structure (Appendix 1) – any variation from the structure is subject to approval by the CRSE management team.
- There is a 3,500 word limit excluding executive summary. Infographics, charts and tables are encouraged and are not part of the word limit.
- Professional writing style written in clear and succinct language aimed at a policy and business audience, not an academic audience.
- Final design will be in the CRSE house style.

Please also be aware that you may be required to be involved in press and launch activities surrounding the final report.

Project schedule

Action	Due date
Proposals due	03-Jan-2018
Interviews with shortlist authors	10-Jan-2018
Successful author(s) notified	12-Jan-2018
First draft of report due (for review by steering committee)	12-Feb-2018
Presentation of report to steering committee (in person or video conference)	19-Feb-2018
Final report due	06-April-2018
Publish report	28-June-2018

Budget

The CRSE will award an honorarium of £10,000 (excluding VAT) for this project. There is no restriction on the number of authors of each report. However, it is the authors' responsibility to divide the £10,000 budget among their project team.

Submission guidelines

Please complete a short proposal using the application details below and send to Kayte Jenkins info@crse.co.uk by 5:00 pm GMT 03 January 2018. Download the Proposal Form here.

Name(s) of project author(s) (If it is a co-authored report submission, please indicate who the lead author is for correspondence)	
Outline of the topic/perspective your report will address	
Why is it important/significant for policy and practice in this area?	
How will you approach the report (include details on your access to academic literature and data sources)	

What are your area/s of expertise?	
Can you meet all dates outlined in the project schedule?	
Provide any examples/evidence of writing for practitioner (non-academic) audiences	*List and attached separately*

Appendix 1: Structure of final report to be delivered

1. Executive summary

- Summary of all key areas (2-5) of the report

2. Introduction

- Introduction of the problem, why is it important/significant?

- What are the main problems/key issues? Details regarding the key implications of the problem. Who is it affecting? Any specific demographic groups? Is it large scale for all?

3. Literature review and context

- What are the key economic/political/business/other circumstances leading to the development or impacting the problem?

- What theoretical/empirical research has been done on the topic? What are the different points of view? Are they well supported? What are the key findings of previous research? What are the gaps in previous research?

- Current policy/ if there is none – policy options available:
    - Scenario 1: What is the current policy? What is the impact of the current policy? What are the gaps in the policy?
    - Scenario 2: If there is no policy present: What are the policy options? What have other countries done to address the problem?

4. Analysis/synthesis to create a new perspective and approach to policy/practice

- Outline new ideas, arguments, analysis and/or evidence to uncover and justify a new way of looking at the problem and solutions.

- This may also include an original proposal for ways of evaluating the appeal of various policy solutions or practices.

- Conclude with a cost-benefit and practicality analysis (can any policy be implemented in practical terms?) of a list of new, existing and adjusted policy options or recommended practices leading to a preferred/ranked list of recommendations.

5. Solutions/recommendations/next steps

- This section will explain how the preferred/ranked recommendations in the previous section can be implemented or adopted in practical terms. In doing so, it will outline key features of the design and process of implementation for any recommended policy and/or practice.

- This should also include identifying who or which organisation needs to take the next steps to make this happen.