Projects

Our projects… get involved… impart your knowledge… work with others…build for the future.

Enterprise Research Centre

The Enterprise Research Centre (ERC) is an independent research centre which aims to provide trusted, robust and independent commentary on SME research and policy. The ERC is a partnership between Warwick Business School, Aston Business School, Imperial College Business School, Strathclyde Business School and Birmingham Business School.

The £2.9 million ERC funding over three years is provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and, through the British Bankers Association (BBA), by the Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, Barclays Bank PLC and Lloyds TSB Bank PLC.

CREME is co-leading the ERC's work on diversity and enterprise with Professor Sara Carter of Strathclyde University. CREME's flagship knowledge exchange initiative – the Enterprise and Diversity Alliance – will assist the ERC in its aim to develop productive relationships between banks and minority entrepreneurs.

For further information visit **enterpriseresearch.ac.uk (http://enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/)** .

Making Entrepreneurship and Diversity "Everyone's Business"

A unique network of public and private organisations, led by CREME, is collaborating to make diversity everyone's business.

Turbulence in the business support environment has resulted in a vacuum in respect of national 'thinking' on minority enterprise. CREME is well placed to address this gap and is developing new ways of engaging with minority enterprise and their stakeholders.

The resulting Enterprise and Diversity Alliance (EDA) will provide leadership in two areas which evidence suggests are key barriers to SMEs' survival and growth and to maximising their contribution to the country's economic growth. Two groups of EDA members will be established to develop and deliver a series of activities, one around access to finance and the other around access to markets. Activities will be underpinned by approaches that deepen the engagement of firms that have tended to be excluded from productive business networks and opportunities.

The EDA involves partners such as the British Bankers' Association, Barclays Bank, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Business in the Community, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Lloyds Bank and local and national policy makers.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has awarded the funding to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in the field of ethnic minority entrepreneurship.

For further updates on this project and other work by CREME, please contact Sophie Sinclair at: **s.c.sinclair@bham.ac.uk (mailto:creme@contacts.bham.ac.uk)** .

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