



MSMES

WORLD CUP 2026
WASHINGTON, DC  JULY 1-3, 2026

2026
Entrepreneurship
for the World

CALL FOR PAPERS

WASHINGTON, DC
July 1-3, 2026



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MSMES WORLD CUP 2026: ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR THE WORLD

Set against the backdrop of the United States' capital, a global hub of policy, innovation, and international collaboration, this Congress will celebrate entrepreneurship as a universal force for economic empowerment, social progress, and sustainable development. Just as the World Cup unites nations through shared passion and competition, this event will bring together the global MSME community to showcase excellence, share breakthrough innovations, and champion entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive prosperity worldwide.

Why Washington, D.C.?

Washington, D.C., stands at the intersection of policy and practice, where decisions shaping the global entrepreneurial landscape are made. As home to international institutions, embassies, and influential think tanks, the city provides an unparalleled setting for meaningful dialogue on how micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can drive economic transformation across borders. The Congress will leverage D.C.'s unique ecosystem to facilitate connections between researchers, entrepreneurs, government officials, and international development leaders committed to advancing the MSME agenda globally.

Congress Focus

The ICSB World Congress 2026 will explore how MSMEs serve as champions of innovation, resilience, and innovative growth in an increasingly interconnected world. Through engaging keynote addresses, interactive panels, rigorous research presentations, and immersive workshops, participants will examine:

- **Global Entrepreneurship Ecosystems:** Building bridges across nations to support MSME growth and competitiveness
- **Technology and Digital Transformation:** Harnessing artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital platforms to level the playing field for small businesses
- **Sustainable and Impact Entrepreneurship:** Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through MSME-led solutions
- **Access to Finance and Resources:** Innovative funding models, from microfinance to venture capital, that empower entrepreneurs globally
- **Policy and Regulatory Frameworks:** Creating enabling environments that support MSME formation, growth, and internationalization
- **Crisis Resilience and Adaptation:** Learning from MSMEs that have navigated disruption, from pandemics to climate change
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Fostering international partnerships, trade networks, and knowledge exchange among MSMEs

TOPICS

Academic Entrepreneurship
 Arts & Entrepreneurship
 Corporate Entrepreneurship
 Digital Entrepreneurship
 Ecosystems & National Innovation Systems
 Entrepreneurship & Covid-19 Impact
 Entrepreneurial Finance
 Entrepreneurial Cities, Entrepreneurship Centers, Coworking Spaces, & Accelerators
 Entrepreneurship & MSMEs in Rural Economies
 Entrepreneurship & MSMEs Policy
 Entrepreneurship & Platforms
 Entrepreneurship & MSMEs in Developing Regions
 Entrepreneurship & Tourism/Hospitality
 Entrepreneurship & Society 5.0
 Entrepreneurship & Sports
 Entrepreneurship Skills for Tomorrow
 Family Business
 Frugal Innovation
 Green Entrepreneurship
 Innovation & Creativity
 Micro Businesses
 Corruption & Entrepreneurship
 The Future of Entrepreneurship Education
 The Future of Work
 Intrapreneurship
 Humane Entrepreneurship
 Healthcare & Entrepreneurship
 Non-profits and Enterprising Non-profits
 MSMEs and Technology Innovation
 Productive Entrepreneurship
 Regenerative Entrepreneurship
 Social Entrepreneurship
 Sustainable Development Goals
 Women Entrepreneurship
 Youth Entrepreneurship
 Migrant Entrepreneurship
 Financing Entrepreneurship

*MSMEs (Micro, Small, Medium-sized Enterprises)

MORE-THAN-

ENTREPRENEURSHIP TOPICS

Circular Economy
 Climate, Environmental, and Multispecies Justice
 Design and implementation of a circular community or regional economy
 Nature-Positive Economy
 The Restoration Economy
 Sustainability
 Sustainability Reporting and Standards
 Capacity Building and the Blue Economy
 Capacity Building in Specific Regions
 Trade Policy
 Economic Growth Through Exporting
 Global Supply Chains
 Regional Development
 Natural Capital Accounting
 Carbon Accounting
 Nature-Markets
 Ecological & Biodiversity Applications to Business Modelling
 Biodiversity & Climate in Business/Entrepreneurship Education
 Critical Management and Organization Studies
 Innovative Methods in/with Entrepreneurship & Other Disciplines (e.g., biology)
 One-Health and or One Welfare in Multispecies Entrepreneurship
 Non-human Ethics in Entrepreneurship
 Renewable Energy & Entrepreneurship
 Entrepreneurship & Environment in the Global Political Economy
 Green Governance
 UN Sustainable Development Goals
 Funding the Future
 Different Models of Governance - Assessment, Comparison, and Economic Impact
 Global Model of Governance & Their Impact on Sustainability
 The Role of Technology in Sustainability
 Can Sustainability Increase Rates of Productivity Growth
 Sustainable Investment
 Sustainable Finance
 Technology and Innovation
 Transition to Net Zero
 The Role of Infrastructure in a Sustainable Future
 Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:^{*}

1. Competitive Papers
2. Workshops
3. Teaching Cases
4. Experiences
5. Doctoral Consortium

*Submissions must be made in English.

STEP 1

THE ABSTRACT

Write an original extended abstract (paper) relating to one of the suggested tracks. Ensure the abstract is no more than 5 pages, excluding works cited and graphs. Save the abstract in PDF form. Don't include your name in the document!

STEP 2

THE SUBMISSION

Before the deadline, submit your paper through the official submission system (on icsbcongress.com).

STEP 3

THE DECISION

You will receive a decision soon after the submission system closes. At this time, you will also receive instructions on registering for the Congress. Remember, only papers presented at the Congress will be included in the proceedings.



GUIDELINES

1. Submissions must be entirely original, not previously published, and must not be under concurrent consideration or scheduled for presentation elsewhere.
2. Submissions must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins using 12-point Times Roman font and in a PDF or Microsoft Word file. Submission in PDF files is preferred.
3. Submissions will be blind-reviewed. Authors must avoid revealing their identities in the body of the paper. Doing so will result in an automatic rejection.
4. Extended abstract submissions should be at most 5 pages – excluding exhibits & references.
5. The extended abstract should provide a synopsis of the central thesis, methodology, findings, implications for theory and/or practice, and how the findings can be implemented. We encourage using qualitative, quantitative, or a combination of these techniques to address research issues rigorously. If you are submitting a Teaching Case or Experience, please define the impact of each and how it relates to the congress theme.
6. Selection for inclusion in the congress program will be based on quality, originality, and relevance as determined by the review process. **The Congress does not publish Proceedings, but all accepted papers will be invited to be published in the Journal of the International Council for Small Business.**
7. All presented papers will be invited to **submit their final submission** (up to 10 pages, double-spaced, excluding tables, figures, references.) for a final review and acceptance will be considered for publication in ICSB's latest journal, the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Review (IER), providing authors with a prestigious platform to share their research with a global audience of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers dedicated to advancing the MSME sector. A DOI number will be provided for each paper. IER is published by Taylor & Francis.
8. Authors submitting papers agree that if accepted, at least one author (presenting author) will register, pay, and attend the congress to present the paper.

DEADLINES

FEBRUARY.15.26

Those requiring Visa's to the United States, deadline to submit and register all through the Congress submission system. We will accept your manuscript as a final version, allowing for limited changes.

APRIL.15.26

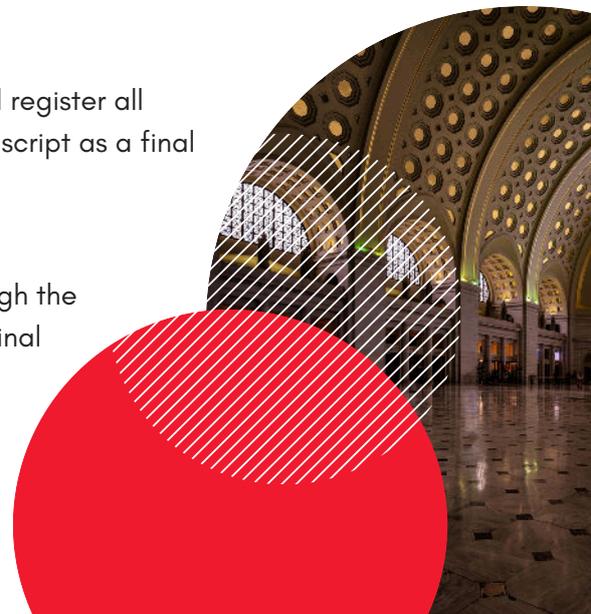
Those not requiring a Visa, deadline to submit all submissions through the Congress submission system. We will accept your manuscript as a final version, allowing for limited changes.

ROLLING

Deadline for notification of acceptance for all submissions.

MAY.15.26

Presenting Author Registration Deadline.



HELPFUL INSIGHTS

TEACHING CASES

Teaching cases stimulate the development of students' critical thinking skills in realistic business situations. This track is ideal for authors involved in case teaching, either by writing case studies or teaching a course based entirely on cases. All authors must indicate (on the first page of their submission) if they plan to present a 30- or 60-minute case.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are defined as interactive sessions designed and implemented by the delegates who propose them. The main objective of workshops is to provide participants with a learning experience that will impact their academic, professional and/or business development. Workshops can refer to some of the topics of interest of this Congress or propose new issues strongly linked to those of this Congress. Please be aware that workshop leaders may be requested to give their workshop on 2nd or 3rd of July 2026 in Washington, DC.

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

Doctoral students must be full-time doctoral students who are emerging small business and/or entrepreneurship scholars pursuing academic careers in entrepreneurship. The consortium will feature leading faculty in the discipline. It will focus on research and pedagogical issues relevant to the student preparing for a career of thought leadership, curricular development, and disciplinary advancement. Doctoral students are encouraged to specify research questions and the potential contributions they envision. They should also provide findings and conclusions (if available) to verify that the proposal is much more than just an idea for a paper that may be written in the future.

Please note that the doctoral consortium will have a pre-Congress event on June 30th (or as advised). The main research presentations will be held on 2 and 3 July (or as advised) 2026.

EXPERIENCES

Those actively involved in running innovative practices at the university or firm level or those demonstrating exceptional practices in entrepreneurship and/or SME assistance and development have the opportunity to present and discuss their experiences in a roundtable setting. Authors are encouraged to describe the general context in which their expertise is embedded, the main target population, the objectives and activities, the main challenges, and the significant results obtained. Importantly, they should also provide some key lessons derived from these interventions. The Experiences will be presented on 2nd or 3rd of July (or as advised), 2026.



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