

**Extended Abstract**  
**Please do not add your name or affiliation**

<b>Paper/Poster Title</b>	<b>Examining the connection between resourcefulness and resilience: A typology of UK rural enterprises based on their ability to withstand external shocks.</b>
---------------------------	---

**Abstract prepared for presentation at the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Society, The University of Warwick, United Kingdom**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>200 words max</b>
<p>The ability of rural enterprise to withstand external shocks has been examined at regional and sectoral level using extensive evidence bases. Little is known however of rural SMEs resourcefulness and how this can affect their resilience capacity. This paper investigates this connection by creating innovative rural SMEs typologies based on these features, with the ambitions to create a tool for targeted policy design and research to assist in increasing resilience in times of need.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Rural enterprises, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Multivariate analysis
<b>JEL Code</b>	O1, O2 see: <a href="http://www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php?class=Q">www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php?class=Q</a> )
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>Rural small and Medium Enterprises (SME) have been exposed to severe operational disruptions in the face of recent internal and external shocks caused by turbulent events such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Regardless, many SMEs are able to withstand the shocks despite their limited resources. The resilience of rural SMES has been extensively studied but research so far has been based on rapid evidence reviews and qualitative analysis focus mainly on the reaction of business sectors. However, what recent events have taught us is that, SME resilience is not necessarily sector wide but also depends on the enterprises' behaviour, their entrepreneurial activity and their ability to sustainably manage their existing resources, what is known as bricolage. There is still little empirical evidence on how resilient SMEs are based on these characteristics. The purpose of the study was to provide an innovative classification of UK rural firms based on their resourcefulness and their ability to withstand critical shocks. The objective is to investigate the connection between this resourcefulness of rural SMEs and their resilience capacity and their ability to bounce back from extreme shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>This study uses data from an extensive cross-sectional survey of rural SMEs in the UK in a multivariate analysis conceptual framework to create typologies of rural SMEs based on their level of resourcefulness, which is measured by behaviours such as their social networking, and/ or their use of external aids and advice. The typologies are then compared against variables depicting resilient performance such as financial revenues and/or ability to provide employment during the pandemic. Four district types of rural enterprises emerged for the analysis, each with different strategic behaviours and resilience performance</p>	
<b>Results</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>Four district types of rural enterprises emerged for the analysis, each with different strategic behaviours and resilience performance. The first included small businesses that are highly socially connected and show increased social management ambitions and societal responsibility. The second</p>	



type was characterised by small businesses highly focused on local trade and with satisfactory social network and ability to use external resources, the third encompassed the smallest SMEs in the sample with low resourcefulness in terms of planning and social connections and, finally, the 4<sup>th</sup> included the larger businesses that have operational risk management plans that often compromise their societal management ambitions.

**Discussion and Conclusion**

**100 – 250 words**

The creation of typologies indicates the importance of resourcefulness in SME resilience and supports the idea that resilience goes beyond regional or sectoral contexts and but has to do with idiosyncratic features and individual characteristics. Based on the SME types that emerged from this study the importance of supporting and enhancing resourcefulness capabilities and risk planning becomes evident. The results of this analysis can provide a useful tool for the design of such tailor made approaches in policy and can also form the grounds of further in-depth research on understanding and interpreting SMEs' behaviours and ability to be resilient in times of crisis.