

## Foreword

Entrepreneurship is a wondrous human activity which has the power to transform people's lives, communities, accelerate economic development and improve the social reality. As a field of research entrepreneurship is a multi-stream and multi-disciplinary research area pursued by academics of various backgrounds, yet always focused on the heart of entrepreneurship which is opportunity identification and exploitation. As such, it has been associated with a set of human traits, as an economic function, as new venture creation, as a specific way of running organizations, and more. Because of its acknowledged impact and significance on economic growth and development, entrepreneurship research spreads upon increasingly wider areas of scientific pursuit and encompasses multiple levels of study (microeconomic, mesoeconomic and macroeconomic) in economics, management science and business studies. In spite of decades of progress and growing popularity, entrepreneurship remains a much fragmented and still expanding field of research. While many questions have been answered, still many remain incomplete, unaddressed or yet to be asked.

This monograph presents current research findings of various authors from different parts of the world making a hopefully valuable polyphonic contribution to the puzzle of entrepreneurship. Its focus is on antecedents and effects of entrepreneurship, addressing two broad and fundamental questions in entrepreneurship research. What enables and fosters entrepreneurship? What are its effects for individuals, organizations and society at large? It consists of nineteen chapters grouped into four parts.

The first part "Entrepreneurship antecedents: role of equality and education" focuses on two important antecedents of entrepreneurship, first being equal access to resources and opportunity exploitation and second being education, the utmost important driver of entrepreneurial attitudes and behaviours. **Monika Fabińska** presents the results of a Poland based mixed method study among women entrepreneurs identifying stimulants and barriers to their business success in the light of the equal opportunities principle. **Rabi Sidi Ali** employs feminist liberal and social theories to explain factors limiting women entrepreneurs growth intentions in developing countries. Both these chapters explore a critical and much neglected aspect of entrepreneurship research; that relating to equal rights and equal access to opportunity exploitation and pursuit of entrepreneurship. As these studies show, in developed as well as developing countries, still much remains to be done in terms of entrepreneurial gender equality. Next, two studies present the role of entrepreneurship education in higher education institutions. **Grażyna Nowaczyk** and **Anna Sobczak** present a critical analysis of an overview of curricula of entrepreneurship courses and emphasise the role of practicality. **Paul M. Lane** calls for an inter-institutional approach to entrepreneurship nests, as he calls universities, coupled with

deep commitment, administrative change, changed learning practice and reshaped physical environment in creating the right environment for entrepreneurship and innovation at higher education institutions.

The second part of this monograph titled “Entrepreneurship ecosystems and social frameworks” examines further antecedents of entrepreneurship: the ecosystem, environment, social networks, social capital, legal frameworks and regional support. **Muhammad Rahatullah Khan** analyses the evolution of entrepreneurship ecosystems and support for new venture creation in Saudi Arabia. **Agnieszka Brzozowska** and **Michał Zdziarski** present a critical overview of the state of the art on network theory referring to the complex mix of relationships entrepreneurs operate in. **Yuhong Zhou** investigates how these social networks can impact entrepreneurial innovation, when mediated by trust and diversity. **Luigi Lai** relates to the legal framework of entrepreneurship and discusses the aspect of insolvency, markedly important in post crisis period. **Tomasz Pilewicz** presents the results of a multilayer extensive research and identifies strategic activities local regions can undertake to create an entrepreneurship friendly environment, attractive for investors, entrepreneurs, tourists and inhabitants alike.

The third part of the monograph “Innovation and technology in small business research” is transitory as it is devoted to innovation and technology, which can be perceived as both antecedents and effects of entrepreneurship. **Luigi Lai** starts this section with an analysis of EU innovation policies, especially in the aspect of institutional cooperation with R&D in the public and private sector. **Małgorzata Gajowiak** presents the effects of intellectual entrepreneurship and results of a study which identifies key resources high-tech small and medium firms tap into to build competitive advantage based on intellectual capital. Next, **Sassan Rismani** and **Dimas Widiantoro** analyse data from 17 EU countries to test the relationship between R&D expenses and start-up IPO over 10 years identifying R&D capital inflow as an enabler of successful start-up IPO. **Agnieszka Skala** presents the results of the first research on Polish digital start-ups providing a valuable insight into this vastly growing area of entrepreneurship. Finally, **Sławomir Wyciślak** discusses the challenges of highly entrepreneurial firms in implementing both lean and agile management patterns in turbulent environments in the aftermath of 2008 crisis.

The fourth and final part titled “Development trends international entrepreneurship” discusses the effects of entrepreneurship in an international context, current developments and challenges of entrepreneurial firms. **Maria Halemba** and **Danuta Babińska** emphasize the role of trust and communication in SMEs acting as service providers via offshore outsourcing. **Wojciech Zysk** offers a much needed perspective on ethical and responsibility aspects of international entrepreneurship highlighting the concept of fair trade 3.0. **Sanja Gongeta** raises the issue of regulatory frameworks in the context of SME internationalization and participation in international markets. **Davar Azarmi** presents the results of a Spanish study identifying factors effecting venture capitalist exit decisions suggesting that factors relating to entrepreneurs and the external environment are key categories that should be taken into account when withdrawing investment. Finally **Yuliia Kleban** offers

a perspective on Ukrainian health resort industry and identifies existing opportunities for social venture creation as an example of successful local development strategies, providing social value added to various groups of the society.

The authors and editors of this monograph aim to contribute to the dynamic growth of entrepreneurship research and its spread over various geographic, institutional and organizational contexts. A broad scope of this monograph enables an overview, analysis and evaluation of current trends in entrepreneurship research, antecedents and potential effects that entrepreneurship bears on organizations and economies. Its interdisciplinary approach and presented research findings from different parts of the world enrich our discussion about how does entrepreneurship happen and what benefits, as well as threats, it brings to societies. The chapters of this monograph can serve to identify new avenues of research in entrepreneurship research linking various forms of entrepreneurship with socio-economic development. The potential audience of this work includes all those who research entrepreneurship and work in relating fields of inquiry and those who wish to know more about entrepreneurship today: students, policy makers or entrepreneurs. Hopefully the content of this monograph will provide inspiration to seek new enhanced solutions in the area of socio-economic development based on entrepreneurship and spark new research which will elevate our understanding of how entrepreneurship can improve the livelihood and prosperity of people, organizations and countries.

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