

International Studies in Entrepreneurship

Mark Sanders

Axel Marx

Mikael Stenkula *Editors*

The Entrepreneurial Society

A Reform Strategy for Italy, Germany
and the UK



Springer Open

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*To Cedric, Merel, Luka and Milo. Look out
for opportunities and have the guts to act on
them.*

Foreword

Building Entrepreneurial Societies with a Multidisciplinary Perspective

The Entrepreneurial Society is always in the making. At the micro level, entrepreneurial people and organizations develop valuable new combinations, enabled and constrained by structures at the macro level. This book provides an excellent overview of how to improve the Entrepreneurial Society in the context of the European Union, and more particular its member states Italy, Germany and the UK. Improving the Entrepreneurial Society is a process of trial-and-error. One can go through this process in the dark or be illuminated by multiple scientific disciplines. This book, and the FIRES project at large, is a multidisciplinary endeavor that sheds light from multiple scientific disciplines on the question and challenge of how to build a more Entrepreneurial Society. It might look like the parable of the blind men and the elephant, in which each blind man feels part of the animal and creates his own version of reality from that limited experience and perspective. The FIRES consortium has been able to connect the blind men, with teams of scholars from law, economics, history, economic geography and innovation studies. This has delivered insights into the process of improving the Entrepreneurial Society and a diagnostic toolkit to uncover the key institutions of entrepreneurial societies. The proposed improvement process provides seven steps to achieve the ultimate aim of inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth. With this book, we will have the best starting point available to start and guide this journey!

Prof. Dr. Erik Stam
Dean, Utrecht University School of Economics
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Preface

This book marks the end of a three-year intense collaboration among some 40 excellent scientists and colleagues from nine institutes in as many countries. As not all their names appear in the author lists of the chapters in this book, we want to thank them here for all their patience, insights and discussions. We also extend our gratitude to many guests and partners that got involved at some stage in our project and Prashanth and Ruth at Springer Publishers in creating this book. Also, it would not have been possible to make this project a success without the support of Mischa, Martina and Mike at the LEG research support office, our project officer at the European Commission, Danilla Conte and the Commission's reviewers during the project. It was a great ride for all of us.

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Leuven, Belgium
December 2019

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Contents

1	Seven Steps Toward Inclusive, Innovative, and Sustainable Growth	1
	Mark Sanders, Axel Marx and Mikael Stenkula	
Part I Historical Roots, Ecosystem Assessment, Firm Formation Processes and Legal Competences		
2	A Historical Perspective on the Evolution of Finance, Knowledge, and Labor Market Institutions in Europe	9
	Selin Dilli	
3	Economic Impact Assessment of Entrepreneurship Policies with the GMR-Europe Model	39
	Attila Varga, László Szerb, Tamás Sebestyén and Norbert Szabó	
4	On the Institutional Foundations of the Varieties of Entrepreneurship in Europe	71
	Andrea M. Herrmann	
5	Towards an Entrepreneurial Society: What Can the European Union Contribute?	91
	Axel Marx	
Part II Country Studies		
6	A Reform Strategy for Italy	127
	Mark Sanders, Mikael Stenkula, Luca Grilli, Andrea M. Herrmann, Gresa Latifi, Balázs Páger, László Szerb and Elisa Terragno Bogliaccini	
7	A Reform Strategy for Germany	163
	Mark Sanders, Mikael Stenkula, Michael Fritsch, Andrea M. Herrmann, Gresa Latifi, Balázs Páger, László Szerb, Elisa Terragno Bogliaccini and Michael Wyrwich	